Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-88-228 *28 November 1988*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Quadripartite Talks To Resume 29 Nov *[Havana Radio]* 1
U.S. Senator Pell Arrives for 4-Day Visit *[Havana Radio]* 1
Commentary on Possible Nicaraguan-U.S. Dialogue *[Havana International]* 1
Havana Notes New U.S. Foreign Trade Measures *[Havana Radio]* 1
Revolutionary Panamanian Party Leader Interviewed *[Havana TV]* 1
Fire-Damaged Communications Soon To Be Restored 2
Service With U. S. Imminent *[Havana International]* 2
Guyana Sends Message *[CANA]* 2
Vice President Meets With Indian Businessmen *[Havana Radio]* 2
Vice Minister To Arrive in Manila 29 Nov *[Havana Radio]* 2
National Assembly To Convene on 22 Dec *[Havana Radio]* 2
Havana's PCC Provincial Committee Plenum Ends 3
Lezcano Comments *[Havana Radio]* 3
Lezcano at Expo-Cuba *[Havana TV]* 3
Government's Accord With Catholic Church Noted *[Havana Radio]* 3
Health Cooperation Note Signed With Argentina *[Havana Radio]* 3

Antigua and Barbuda

Prime Minister Returns From U.S. Visit *[CANA]* 3
Nation Joins OAS Commission on Narcotics *[CANA]* 3
Revenue From Hotels' Sale To Pay External Debt *[Bonaire Radio]* 4

Bahamas

Unions Threaten To Shut Down Country *[CANA]* 4

Haiti

29 Nov Declared National Day of Mourning *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Political Party Approves *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Groups Urge Participation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
COPOL Rejects 'Demagogy' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Group Rejects Invitation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Capture of Killers Urged *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
People's Mobilization Sought *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7

Jamaica

Manley Calls for Immediate General Elections *[CANA]* 7
Candidate Dropped *[CANA]* 7

Trinidad and Tobago

Economic Plans Outlined in Letter to IMF *[CANA]* 8

MEXICO

President-Elect Invites FDN Parties for Talks *[NOTIMEX]* 10
Cardenas Accepts Salinas Proposal for Dialogue *[Mexico City TV]* 10

FDN Supporters Occupy Mayors' Offices *[AFP]* 10
Venezuelans Could Receive Political Asylum *[NOTIMEX]* 10
Respect for Decision *[NOTIMEX]* 11
Drug Smugglers Arrested; Marijuana Seized *[NOTIMEX]* 11

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Political Rally Teargassed in Cartago 24 Nov *[San Jose Radio]* 12
Influence of Drug Traffickers Investigated *[LA REPUBLICA 20 Nov]* 12
Ambassador to Peru Resigns *[Hamburg DPA]* 13

El Salvador

FMLN Activities, Clashes, Strikes Reported 13
ARENA Mayor 'Executed' *[Radio Venceremos]* 13
23-25 Nov Clashes Reviewed *[Radio Venceremos]* 13
Urban Guerrilla Strikes Noted *[San Salvador TV]* 13
Further Activities Cited *[Radio Venceremos]* 14
FMLN Commander Gonzalez on Rebel Unity *[Mexico City UNOMASUNO 19 Nov]* 14

Guatemala

Government Explains Incident With U.K. Ship *[Hamburg DPA]* 15
Cerezo Supports Cabrera as Party Candidate *[Guatemala City Radio]* 15
Andrade Seeks PNR Nomination *[LA PRENSA LIBRE 25 Nov]* 15
Bodies of 21 Kidnapped Peasants Found *[AFP]* 15
Human Rights Group Condemns Murder of Activist *[Hamburg DPA]* 16

Honduras

Azcona Dismisses Deputy's Comments on Budget *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 16
Armed Forces Deny Requesting Azcona Resignation *[Hamburg DPA]* 17
Azcona: Socialist Support Necessary for Peace *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 17

Nicaragua

Ortega Seeks Meeting With Bush Representatives *[ACAN]* 18
Costa Rican, Nicaraguan Ministers Hold Talks 18
Border Agreement Signed *[Managua Radio]* 18
Immigration Accord Signed *[Managua Radio]* 19
Contra Radios Discussed *[Managua Radio]* 19
Honduran Troops Attack Border Post 24 Nov *[Managua Radio]* 20
Government Reportedly Breaks Cease-Fire *[LA PRENSA 22 Nov]* 21
Defense Ministry Denial *[Managua Radio]* 21

Panama

Noriega Addresses FDP Officers at Rio Hato *[Panama City Radio]* 21
Solis Palma Opposes Call for National Assembly *[MEDIODIA 23 Nov]* 27
Assesses Davis' Comments *[MEDIODIA 25 Nov]* 28
PDC 'Will Participate' in 1989 Elections *[MEDIODIA 24 Nov]* 28

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Alfonsin Returns From Europe; Agreements Signed *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 29
Arab Diplomats Meet Foreign Ministry Official *[DYN]* 29
Army Chief of Staff Addresses 300 Officers *[LA PRENSA 26 Nov]* 29
Centrists, Progressives To Support Alsogaray *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 27 Nov]* 29
Investigation Into Clandestine Arsenals Continues *[TELAM]* 29

Bolivia

Deputy Speaks on Installation of U.S. Bases *[La Paz Radio]* 30
U.S. Congress Drug Trafficking Report Rejected *[EL DIARIO 15 Nov]* 30

Brazil

Sarney To Meet Argentine President on 28 Nov *[Brasilia Radio]* 31
Palestinian State Supported, Not Recognized *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 31
President Sarney Reacts to Election Results *[Brasilia Radio]* 31
Government Studying Plans To Curb Inflation *[Brasilia Radio]* 31
Steel Workers Lift Strike, Army Troops Leave *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 32
Army Denies Report on 'Alleged Disagreements' *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 32
Sao Paulo Mayor-Elect Views Road to Socialism *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 23 Nov]* 32

Chile

Pinochet Promises to 'Depart Quietly' in 1990 *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Foreign Minister on U.S. Visit, OAS Meeting *[Santiago TV]* 33
Pinochet Family Mausoleum in Santiago Bombed *[DYN]* 34
Carabineros Deactivate Powerful Bomb in Santiago *[Santiago TV]* 34
MIR Calls for Mass Struggle Against Regime *[EL MERCURIO 12 Nov]* 34

Colombia

President Barco Speaks on Security Situation *[Bogota Radio]* 34
Politicians React *[Bogota TV]* 36
19 FARC Rebels, 1 Soldier Killed in Meta *[Bogota TV]* 37
Government Releases Figures on Guerrilla Violence *[EL SIGLO 20 Nov]* 37
Senate Votes, Approves Constitutional Amendment *[Bogota TV]* 37
Correction to Responsibility Claimed for Attack 38

Ecuador

Borja To Promote Agrarian Reform, Railroads *[EL COMERCIO 13 Nov]* 38
Nicaraguan Ambassador's Credentials Received *[Quito Radio]* 38
Minister Denies Talks With Guerrillas *[Quito Radio]* 38
Vice President on Government Economic Plan *[EL COMERCIO 15 Nov]* 39
Central Bank on Foreign Reserves, Trade Balance *[EL COMERCIO 16 Nov]* 39
Government To Guarantee Services During Strike *[Quito Radio]* 40
Strike Said Unsuccessful *[Quito Radio]* 40
One Reportedly Killed *[Quito Radio]* 40
Universities, Schools Strike To Demand Aid *[Quito Radio]* 40

Paraguay

1988 Foreign Debt Reportedly Set at $350 Million *[HOY 24 Nov]* 40
Writer Miranda, Union Leaders on Hunger Strikes *[HOY 23 Nov]* 41
Police, Government Delegate Prevent Procession *[ULTIMA HORA 25 Nov]* 41
Marijuana Warehouses Found, Trafficker Wounded *[ULTIMA HORA 25 Nov]* 41

Peru

Garcia on Antidrug Actions With Colombia *[Lima TV]* 41
Carlos Rivas Davila Appointed Finance Minister *[Santiago Radio]* 42
Appointment Confirmed *[Lima TV]* 42
Education Minister To Speak at Cuban Conference *[Lima TV]* 43
Shining Path Attacks Police Station, 5 Killed *[Madrid EFE]* 43
Journalist, Mayor Killed *[Madrid EFE]* 43
Interior Minister on Terrorist Activities, Curfew *[Lima TV]* 44
Prime Minister Blames Strike on 'Subversives' *[Lima TV]* 44
APRA Senator: Country on 'Brink' of Civil War *[Madrid EFE]* 44
Correction to Economy Minister Address 45

Cuba

Quadripartite Talks To Resume 29 Nov

FL2511130688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The next quadripartite negotiations on southwest Africa will begin on 29 November in Brazzaville, the Congo. Reliable sources quoted by a press agency said that this will be the last round of negotiations between Angola, Cuba, and South Africa with the United States as mediator.

According to the PANA [PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY], the meeting will be dedicated to signing a document called "The Brazzaville Protocol".

In the Geneva talks, which were held in the middle of November, the parties agreed in principle on a 27-month timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola. At that time, the head of the Cuban delegation, Carlos Aldana, said that Cuba will attend the Brazzaville meeting particularly satisfied that its troops have not only contributed to Angola's independence and integrity, but also to Namibia's independence.

U.S. Senator Pell Arrives for 4-Day Visit

FL2511140188 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Claiborne Pell, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is in Havana for a 4-day visit. The Democratic senator plans to discuss private and official matters during his stay in Cuba, said a spokesman who is accompanying him.

Pell was received upon his arrival by Jose Raul Viera, vice foreign minister, and John Taylor, head of the U.S. Interest Section in Havana.

Commentary on Possible Nicaraguan-U.S. Dialogue

PA2711231588 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Nov 88

["Our America" commentary read by Fernando Alcorta]

[Text] [Words indistinct] Nicaragua has not ruled out the possibility of resuming talks with the United States, seeking a political solution to the conflict, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega recently said. This was reiterated by Nicaraguan Deputy Defense Minister Joaquin Cuadra, who warned that even if President George Bush finds that the policy has failed, it is not possible to forget that the United States supports the counterrevolution and is determined to destroy the Nicaraguan social accomplishments. This is how the continuation of the aggressive policy against the Sandinist revolution could be summarized. The mercenary gangs could not have done anything had they not had Washington's financial and military support.

Therefore, although the Nicaraguan Government had agreed to hold a dialogue with the counterrevolutionaries, it has continued emphasizing that the solution to the conflict can only be attained when the U.S. authorities agree to sit down at the negotiation table.

Obviously, President Daniel Ortega and other government officials who have discussed this issue have reiterated that a possible dialogue with the United States will always be on security issues and not on Nicaraguan internal political affairs. In this regard, one must not forget that the aggression, promoted and financed by the United States, has cost the Nicaraguan people 54,000 casualties, which is irreparable damage, to which one must add the incalculable economic damage hindering Nicaragua's development.

It has been said on other occasions—(? and it is necessary to reiterate it now)—that if the Republican administration insists on supporting the irregular forces, any possibility of a negotiated solution in Nicaragua would be seriously affected. As President Ortega said, Reagan's history would be repeated.

In an analysis made a few hours after George Bush's triumph had been reported, the Nicaraguan president warned it will not be easy for Bush to forget about the Reagan administration's commitments to the mercenary gangs. However, he warned about how big a mistake it would be to repeat the already failed policy of the past. Thus, the Sandinists reiterate their desire to begin a dialogue with the new U.S. Government, but always with dignity.

Havana Notes New U.S. Foreign Trade Measures

FL2611160288 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1514 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The U.S. Treasury Department announced today new regulations aimed at strictly controlling the activities of U.S. citizens who travel to Cuba and restricting the use in our country of credit cards issued by U.S. banks. The measures are based on provisions included in the U.S. Foreign Trade Law of 1988 introduced by Claude Pepper, Democratic representative for Florida.

The new regulations, which will be in effect within a month, require that any person or organization that provides services related to trips to Cuba, obtains a license from the foreign goods control offices, which will closely supervise those activities. On 3 November, the Treasury Department banned U.S. companies from conducting any kind of transaction with firms that conduct business with Cuba through third countries.

Revolutionary Panamanian Party Leader Interviewed

FL2611030488 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Interview with Luis Toti Caspar Suarez, president of the Revolutionary Panamanian Party, date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Suarez] The crisis has been going on for approximately 1 and ½ years. Panama continues fighting. We

continue to hold a firm position—a position of not taking a step back. There is the National Democratic Union, which consists of four political parties and part of the Republican Party. We are for President Solis Palma and Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega—Panamanian and Latin American leaders. As I was saying, we are closing the ranks, we have not taken a single step back. This is the moment in which Panama has won several battles against the empire.

[Unidentified reporter] We understand that in May 1989 elections will be held in Panama. We would like to know how these parties and candidates are already (?preparing) for these elections.

[Suarez] We have two great alliances. That is how it was in 1984. We have the Patriotic Alliance which is the National Democratic Union, consisting of the revolutionary democratic parties [word indistinct] Omar Torrijos, the Labor Party, the National Party, and the Revolutionary Panamanian Party. As for the opposition, there are parties which are practically [word indistinct]. For example, the Authentic Panamanian Party has drifted quite a bit. So, you can see two great alliances. But I reiterate, that they are absolutely [word indistinct].

The problem we'll have is that the United States will give the (?opposition) great (?support)—if they participate, because they were trying to boycott the elections. We feel that there must be elections, and of course we will win them. Democracy, in quotes, in some Latin American countries [shifts thought]. International observers will be following this, and we will comply with what the Constitution says: Elections must be held.

Fire Damaged Communications Soon To Be Restored

Service With U. S. Imminent

PA2611222688 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Orlando Suarez, director of Telephone Enterprise for the City of Havana, has told the media that telephone communications between Cuba and the United States will begin to be restored this Sunday.

Suarez said that telephone booths will be installed in the capital and in the Provinces of Matanzas, Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Ciego de Avila, and Santiago de Cuba to facilitate communications.

The telephone enterprise director also commented on progress being made in the capital to reestablish communications following a fire that affected telephone service to the country's interior and abroad. In this regard, he announced the establishment of 40 new lines in the affected areas.

Guyana Sends Message

FL2511162588 Bridgetown CANA in English 1555 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 25, CANA—Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte sent a message of sympathy to Cuban President Fidel Castro following the news of the fire which damaged the Cuban international communications company.

According to the state-owned CHRONICLE, the message reads: "I assure you, my brother, of my own profound sympathy and concern, as well as that of the Government and people of Guyana at the loss sustained as a result of this tragedy.

"I am confident that the industry and resourcefulness of the people of Cuba, will enable you soon to overcome the effects of this disaster."

Vice President Meets With Indian Businessmen

FL2611133988 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] A group of executives from the (Birla) firm, one of the most important firms in India, has ended a visit to Cuba. The businessmen toured important production centers in several provinces. They met with Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and other Cuban leaders to assess the results of the visit. During the meeting, a detailed set of proposals to increase efficiency of Cuban plants was analyzed.

Vice Minister To Arrive in Manila 29 Nov

FL2511231388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2041 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Giraldo Mazola, Cuban foreign vice minister, will arrive next Tuesday in Manila, Philippines. During his visit, from 29 November to 3 December, Mazola will hold talks with President Corazon Aquino and with various officials from the Asian nation. He will also tour important economic centers.

National Assembly To Convene on 22 Dec

FL2511121588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The next regular period of sessions of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] will convene on 22 December at 0900. The order to convene was issued in Havana by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting ANPP president according to bylaws.

Havana's PCC Provincial Committee Plenum Ends

Lezcano Comments

FL2611134688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The fifth plenum of the PCC Provincial Committee in Havana has ended. Jorge Lezcano delivered the closing remarks. He said next year's investment program needs great support. Among the main goals of the province mentioned by Lezcano were to reach a ready status, second stage, in defense, and to give preferential treatment to the health and education sectors and tourist and steelworking industries.

Lezcano also noted the need to strengthen the authority of the administration, the work of the People's Government in the municipalities, and to improve the work of the UJC [Union of Young Communists]. Lezcano also for the improved efficiency of the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] and the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women] and the establishment of greater communication with these organizations and the labor movement.

Lezcano at Expo-Cuba

FL2611031988 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Jorge Lezcano, first party secretary of the City of Havana Province, attended today the completion ceremony of eight Expo-Cuba pavilions and the banner ceremony for an UJC [Union of Young Communists] contingent. The 132 youths, who are members of the 13th Festival of the Student Youth Contingent, will provide their support in the total completion of Expo-Cuba. This collective was formed in less than 72 hours by the capital's UJC.

Afterwards, a tour of the pavilions assigned for fisheries, mass media, public health, construction two [as heard], geology, apiculture, cattle, and aviculture was taken. These rooms are ready for their respective organizations to begin setting up the exhibits which will be shown by the end of the year. [passage omitted]

Government's Accord With Catholic Church Noted

FL2611144388 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Radio Vatican carried yesterday an interview with Archbishop (Fiorenso Angelini), chief of the Vatican [word indistinct] for health, who visited Cuba recently. The prelate said he agreed with the Cuban Government to increase the number of nuns and Catholic nurses and social assistants here.

Msgr (Angelini) participated in the Congress of Ministers and Health Workers from socialist countries held in Havana. The archbishop was also received by President Fidel Castro. He said he was truly happy with the meeting. He said he felt this way not only because he met with a man of historic importance, especially for Latin American countries, but also because of Fidel's passion for health policies in Cuba.

Health Cooperation Note Signed With Argentina

FL2611134088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Argentina, Cuba, and the Pan-American Health Organization have signed in Buenos Aires a joint memorandum which establishes cooperation in the field of health. The program foresees the training of pharmacological supervisors and quality control professionals. It also includes the possibility of exchanges in the production and marketing of medicines, among others.

Antigua and Barbuda

Prime Minister Returns From U.S. Visit

FL2611022988 Bridgetown CANA in English 2106 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] St. Johns, Antigua, Nov 25, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Vere Bird St returned home Thursday night after a one-week trip to the United States, where he was a guest of the Caribbean Resources Development Foundation based in Miami, Florida.

Bird, the Caribbean eldest statesman and current chairman of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), was a special guest at the ceremony of lights marking the re-opening of the recently restored Freedom Tower in downtown Miami.

Nation Joins OAS Commission on Narcotics

FL2611022588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2104 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] St. Johns, Antigua, Nov 25, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda has become a member of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The membership was formalised when the OAS convened it 18th regular general assembly in El Salvador last week.

The commission was established two years ago, in an effort to control drug abuse and trafficking.

Antigua and Barbuda was represented by Ambassador Edmund Lake and Starete Greene at the assembly.

Revenue From Hotels' Sale To Pay External Debt

FL2511191788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The Antiguan Government is selling two of its big hotels. Seventy- five percent share of the Royal Antiguan Hotel is being offered for $80-100 million and the Halcyon Cove Hotel will go for $25 million. The money will go to pay Antigua's external debt.

Bahamas

Unions Threaten To Shut Down Country

FL2611024288 Bridgetown CANA in English 2314 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Nov 25, CANA—Union leaders in the Bahamas have threatened to shut down the country if public service workers demands for salary increases are not met. The threat came as teachers continued a sickout, forcing an early closure to schools.

"We could end up with a widespread strike because we have turned the matter over to the Trades Union Congress (TUC) who will meet tomorrow in an emergency session to take some type of action later on," president of the 6,000 strong Public Service Union, Arlington Miller told CANA Friday.

Miller is also president of the TUC, an umbrella union organisation, grouping 23,000 workers.

Workers representing every government ministry or corporation in the country engaged in a day-long, sit-down protest Thursday. Thousands of workers stood, lay and sat on Bay Street, (Nassau's main thoroughfare), to protest against what they claim was a serious breach of promises made by government to public servants.

Miller says that the workers are displeased that the government has given top civil servants such as permanent secretaries, increases of as much as 16,400 dollars a year but all it is "prepared to do for the rank and file" is offer 250 dollars a year for the lowest paid workers and 800 dollars for those at the middle level.

"We are simply saying if you have to raise the top of the civil service, we have no grouse about that, but at least give the rank and file something to live on as well," he said.

"All we are saying is not to give the rank and file less that 1,000 dollars increase if you can give new cars and increases to the (top officers)."

Miller says the workers are also charging the government with breach of faith since it had gone back on its word to make salary increases for 1988 retroactive to January 1. On November 17 workers received back pay retroactive to July 1988.

The government, on the other hand, says the workers have been given a fair deal over the last ten years. Except for 1979, 1982 and 1987 public servants have received increases each year since 1978.

Deputy Prime Minister, Clement Maynard, said that in the recent round of pay increases the government merely sought to redress an "imbalance in the wage scales of those holding senior positions." He said that the government has lost top-level workers to the private sector because government salaries have become "far from competitive..."

A review of salary increases over the last five years discloses that persons in the "lower pay scales have received the largest amounts as the salary structure has risen", he remarked.

He said the government, through this recent increase, sought to correct this inequity and "persons in low positions have been given full and sympathetic consideration..."

Maynard said the salaries review committee, of which he is chairman, has not said its final work on the matter. When it does, lower paid workers will be "remunerated appropriately in order to ensure that their salaries remain competitive and adequate for their needs."

He warned however, that the government already has an "enormous salary bill" and the (approximately) 20 million dollars a further salary increase will require, will "add to the burden presently borne by the Bahamian public."

Meanwhile, Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) president, Donald Symontette, flew to Grand Bahama, an island in the northern Bahamas, to muster support for the cause for which, in the beginning, teachers alone were battling.

A spokesperson fo the BUT told the media that until the workers received the piece of the pie for which they were fighting, "there will be no peace in the country."

There were reports Friday that Education Minister Paul Adderley has ordered that public schools be closed in the afternoon.

The Bahamas Union of Teachers has said that until the demands for increased salaries are met members will continue to stage their sick-out. But the Education Ministry says school will resume on Monday morning at the usual time.

Haiti

29 Nov Declared National Day of Mourning

FL2311134988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Under a military government decree dated 21 November, Tuesday, 29 November 1988—next Tuesday—will be a day of national mourning throughout the Republic. The national flag will on this occasion be flown at half-mast over all public buildings; and public offices, schools, commerce, and industry will be closed.

The government has taken this measure in order to pay well-deserved homage to all those who died on 29 November 1987, during the aborted elections. Everyone (?remembers) that day, which was a sad day for all of Haiti.

Political Party Approves

FL2311135788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, has issued a statement in connection with 29 November, which the Haitian Government has declared a day of national mourning. The PDCH approves of the government's decision to make this tragic date a day of mourning.

According to Mr [Menard] (Charles Roberts), the PDCH is planning to organize its own day of reflection on that day, in honor of the victims of last 29 November's genocide. For the PDCH, the day's theme is going to be justice and reparations. [passage omitted]

[Begin (Roberts) recording] Indeed, we were very pleased to receive the letter, and the sentiments in the letter also pleased us greatly. [passage omitted] It is not that we are against it. On the contrary, we praise the initiative. It's just that we think that we, the PDCH, cannot participate; and we have several reasons for being unable to attend. [passage omitted]

We had already planned to organize a little ceremony. [passage omitted] We had already planned to commemorate the day here, at party headquarters. We invited all the relatives and all the people who were hurt to a little gathering. We had planned to pray, (?fast), and ask for forgiveness for the persecutors. We are not going to encourage hatred. Hatred is not in keeping with the party's doctrine.

The topic for the day's reflection is not hatred. We are not going to make things worse by encouraging discord. We are not going to ask people to harbor resentment or to burn people alive or anything like that. All our reflections will revolve around justice and reparations, on how you can make a person forget, on how you can get him to forgive, when he has been victimized—only by being just, by recognizing that he was indeed victimized, and by trying to make reparations for what you did to him. [passage omitted]

Groups Urge Participation

FL2511235088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Five human rights organizations invite the population of Port-au-Prince and provincial towns to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the 29 November massacre. On this occasion, the five human rights organizations have prepared a program that includes a peaceful procession, with participants coming from all parts of the capital exhibiting signs of mourning, carrying lighted candles, and converging on Ruelle Vaillant early in the morning; (?a) religious ceremony for all the martyrs; and a speech on the occasion.

These organizations ask all representatives (?in rural areas) and provincial towns to prepare a similar program. They also ask that all schools set aside a special time on 28 November to reflect upon the 29 November events. They say that they will henceforth call 29 November—on the calendar of democrats—Day of the Martyrs of Democracy in Haiti. They say that they are also in favor of calling Ruelle Vaillant the Street of the Martyrs [Rue des Martyrs].

COPOL Rejects 'Demagogy'

FL2611002888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Coordinating Body of People's Organizations of the Artibonite [COPOL] invites the population of the Artibonite Valley and all militants to not participate in what it calls governmental demagogy.

COPOL says: 29 November should remain a special date in the memory of the Haitian people. It should remind us of the way the criminal macoute forces mercilessly murdered a number of Haitian children. It should also remind people of how fake democrats, traitors to the country, have no consideration whatsoever for the lives of the Haitian people, preferring to send them out to die in order to satisfy their hunger for power—whereas the Haitian people (?had) asked that their demands be met before elections were held. [passage omitted]

It should also remind us how easily chameleons can change their color. How much sincerity can there be in the government's decision to commemorate the memory of all the victims of the electoral period, when it has never taken measures to judge the criminal perpetrators of these massacres? The Namphy government had said more than this, to prove its sincerity. We are not going to be April-fooled, [a play on words involving the name Avril, April in English] says the COPOL press release. Although we are in favor of 29 November becoming a

day of national mourning, we are not willing to commemorate it with a government that is protecting criminals. For this reason, COPOL asks all militants and the population of the Artibonite in general not to participate in the government's demagogy.

COPOL asks the people's organizations to engage in, to the extent that they are able to do so, diverse activities, such as peaceful demonstrations, mass meetings, gatherings for the purpose of reflection, and masses in all churches in the Artibonite at 0900. [COPOL says:] Make public the victims' names, point out the criminals, ask that the Army of 17 September arrest the guilty so that they can be tried before the people. These activities should permit each member to swear before history that he will continue struggling until an end to dictatorship and injustice is reached—and to establish a society in which life, love, and solidarity will spread, to the benefit of all the nation's children. [passage omitted]

The National Union for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights says that in order for things like this to never happen again, the military government should order a new, independent, and serious investigation, in order to shed light on the 29 November 1987 massacre, so that the Justice Department can be informed and take action against all the guilty parties. The party says that there is anarchy and violence where there is no justice and reparations. [passage omitted] The party once again calls for the evildoers to be brought to trial.

Group Rejects Invitation

FL2611000888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpt] In connection with the letter of invitation to participate in the commemoration of 29 November that the government sent diverse sectors, KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity] informs the president of the military government that it will not participate in any official gathering in connection with the 29 November massacre. KID says that it cannot participate in such a gathering as long as the executioners have not been taken into custody; as long as the population continues to be subjected to actions like the week of 29 November daily in the streets, at home, and at work; and as long as the patriotic soldiers who truly wanted to do away with 29 November-like activity continue to rot in jail.

KID says that it cannot participate in any official ceremony in which it risks finding itself seated next to perpetrators of the 29 November massacre.

KID also denounces the spirit of that letter, which makes the 29 November massacre out to be an accident of history, a clash of diverse sectors. KID says it believes that public opinion in general was able to note that only the macoute forces were stomping the Haitian people, just as they continue to do with impunity today in both towns and rural areas. KID asks the president of the military government: If he were in the people's camp, if he were on the side of the victims of the 29 November massacre, would he content himself with only a pretty cover-up ceremony and a bunch of pretty speeches, and no justice?

Also, KID says it has taken note of the government's initiative to make the government media available to diverse sectors on the occasion of 29 November. KID is responding positively to this initiative, but it takes this opportunity to tell the government that it should not decide to give other sectors in Haiti the opportunity to respond every so often.

Finally, KID says that it hopes this initiative is just a beginning and all political sectors in Haiti will be able to make themselves heard properly over the government media. [passage omitted]

Capture of Killers Urged

FL2611000188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] In connection with the commemoration of 29 November, a press release from the PNDPH [National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti] asks that the citizens who died on 29 November 1987 not be forgotten because they are crying out for justice. [passage omitted] The PNDPH asks us not to allow the dossier on that dark day to be closed before the executioners pay for their crimes.

The PNDPH asks that there be, on that day, a demonstration capable of making the criminals still free—and even those already dead—quake in fear. Haiti's soil (?must) be made to vibrate from this big demonstration held to demand justice.

The PNDPH says: Come on, you soldiers of liberty, elderly, young men and women, poor, rich, school children, university students, workers, professionals, and persecuted peasants! Wherever you find yourselves on that day, you (?must) answer the call to assembly. Let us demand justice—justice for our dead and ourselves, because without justice, we may consider our lives [words indistinct]. Only we can defend our lives by showing our determination to live as free men or die. [passage omitted]

Let us show our force, peaceably.

We have nothing to commemorate on that day, for the dossier on the warm blood that flowed on Ruelle Vaillant and in other parts of Haiti remains open. On the contrary, let us raise our voices to cry out loudly for justice for the 29 November martyrs.

People's Mobilization Sought

FL2611015088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The Coordinating Committee of the Democratic Forces asks the Haitian people to mobilize on 29 November to demand justice and also to demand that the Avril government resign and be replaced. The Coordinating Committee thinks that General Avril has too many ties to the macoutes to be able to disarm them and restore peace in Haiti.

Also, on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the genocidal massacre of 29 November 1987, the MNP-28 [National Patriotic Movement of 28 November] invites all its members and sympathizers to not only participate in all patriotic activities taking place that day, but also to spend the day meditating and reflecting upon the following theme: Democracy and Justice are Twin Sisters.

While it salutes the government's initiative to make 29 November a day of national mourning, MNP-28 reminds the government there can be no reconciliation without justice—because it is not normal for the criminals responsible for the 29 November massacre to continue to circulate freely, with no problems whatsoever.

Jamaica

Manley Calls for Immediate General Elections

FL2311220988 Bridgetown CANA in English 2141 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 23, CANA—Warning Prime Minister Edward Seaga against trifling with Jamaica's future by delaying national polls, opposition leader Michael Manley on Tuesday night called for an immediate general election here.

"I am suggesting that sooner will be a little better than later," Manley told guests at a J1000 dollar-a-plate (one Jca dollar ; 18 cents U.S.) fund-raising dinner for his shadow justice minister, Carl Rattray. Rattray will contest a parliamentary seat for the East St Catherine Constituency. "A point can come when political opportunism is very dangerous for the country," Manley said. "I think we have reached that stage now."

Seaga, seeking an unprecedented third consecutive term in office, won his second five-year term in the December 15, 1983 general election which was boycotted by the opposition. Constitutionally, the life of the current Parliament expires on January 10 next year, the fifth anniversary of its first sitting. But Seaga can utilise a three-month constitutional grace period and rule with his Carinet up to April 1989.

However, Seaga has given no clear signal of his intentions in a political environment made more confused by the fact of Hurricane Gilbert that lashed Jamaica in September leaving widespread damage, a huge inflow of foreign aid and partisan squabbling over the distribution of relief.

In the pre-hurricane period there was strong speculation that the election would have been held by early November, and only last week a rumour was strong in Kingston that the poll would be held by December 15 to prevent the campaign marring the sensitive and critically important winter tourist season. But betting on an election by December 15 has become a low-odds wager because of an apparent lack of mobilisation of Prime Minister Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP). And based on the necessary preparation time for putting the electoral machinery completely in motion and the 16 day period between nomination of candidates and voting, Seaga would need to announce the election by this weekend, poll watchers said.

There are suggestions that he is seeking to delay the election hoping that the JLP can wipe out the lead of between eight to 10 points—depending on which opinion poll—held by the PNP.

Manley, whose party support slipped badly after the hurricane but increased again, according to leading pollster Carl Stone, said Seaga's failure to call the election was an "immoral but legal excuse of calculation of political opportunism". The opposition leader said that it was already clear that the failure to hold the election was acting against capital formation and investment. Additionally, Manley warned that holding the election during the winter tourist season could be detrimental. He pointed out that many journalists would be in Jamaica at the time of the elections and the eyes of world would be on the country.

Although there was a reasonable chance of a violence-free election it would take only "one joker" belonging neither to the PNP nor the JLP to fire a shot to create problems for the tourist industry, Manley said.

Jamaica Government and tourism officials are hoping that tourism recovers from the battering from the hurricane that devastated the island September 12. "Anybody who trifles with Jamaica at this time, trifles with our future," Manley said.

Candidate Dropped

FL2311165288 Bridgetown CANA in English 1622 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 23, CANA—Opposition leader Michael Manley has dropped one of the 60 members named by his Peoples National Party (PNP) to contest Jamaica's general elections.

In a statement issued Tuesday night, Manley said that candidate, Derrick Lambert, had breached party discipline.

Manley, who is also president of the National Workers' Union (NWU), also announced he had ordered that Lambert, an organiser for the union, be suspended pending further investigation of his conduct. Lambert could not be immediately contacted for comment.

However, PNP sources said Wednesday that Lambert was dropped because of poor leadership and lack of sustained effort in the South East Clarendon Constituency where he was to run against the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Hugh Shearer.

Shearer, also a former prime minister and a well respected trade unionist and skilled negotiator, has an image of an elder statesman within the governing Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

"Nobody expected Lambert to win the constituency, but we expect that he should give Shearer concern about his seat," one PNP source said. "But he has not worked well or hard in the constituency and displayed the kind of leadership qualities the PNP expected from a member of Parliament."

The PNP wanted Shearer's concern over his own seat to lessen his time to campaign in the rest of the country for the JLP.

Manley, who did not announce a replacement, said that the decision to drop the candidate, was "based on aj constant evaluation which has been done by the party's leadership" and reports on Lambert's conduct which "appear to breach party guidelines".

"Some of the candidates might not quite realise it, most of their performance is constantly evaluated by the party secretariat and the leadership," a PNP spokesman said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Economic Plans Outlined in Letter to IMF

FL2311173188 Bridgetown CANA in English 1959 GMT 19 Nov 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 19, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago plans to relax foreign exchange control for certain industries, reduce the negative import list, cut the public service and introduce a value added tax from 1990 under an International Monetary Fund-backed programme to boost the economy.

The plans are outlined in a 20-page letter of intent to the IMF, dated November 16, with the twin Republic seeking a 14-month standby arrangement with the Washington-based fund. The 1989 plans are taken from government's three-year economic plans outlined earlier this year in two draft documents.

"In implementing the medium-term economic programme, the government would like to count on the support of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as other multilateral financial institutions," the letter from Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and Central Bank governor, William Demas, to IMF managing director, Michael Camdessus, said.

"The government hereby requests a 14-month standby arrangement from the fund in the amount of Sdr [special drawing rights] 99 million.

"The government also requests that the fund decide that, if adverse external contengencies occur during the period of the standby arrangement, external contingency financing under the compensatory and contingency financing facility up to a maximum amount of Sdr 42.5 million (be provided), in accordance with the factors set out in the annex attached.

"Trinidad and Tobago understands that, accordingly, in the case of favourable contingencies, adjustments up to the same maximum amount may have to be made under the facility," the letter said.

The plan's dealon a point-by-point basis with government's proposed programme for 1989 but state that Trinidad and Tobago would be willing to take any further measures that might become appropriate.

The letter promises to consult with the fund on adoption of any measures which might be appropriate in line with the funds policies.

The government plans to cut public spending from seven per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year to four per cent next year mainly through strengthening a central control of public service operations. The government assumes that 9,600 people—15 per cent of the service—will accept its new voluntary early retirement and severance schemes over the next two years. This will mean a net spending on severance benefits during this period but the administration anticipates a saving of TT 190 million dollars (one TT dollar; 23.5 U.S. cents) a year on current spending from 1991. The government also plans to negotiate with public sector unions to put off payment of an industrial court ordered cost of living allowance (COLA) until "economic conditions improve."

In his presentation of the letter to Parliament, Robinson ruled out speculation about a further devaluation saying the fund agreed that the country's current rate of exchange was appropriate.

The letter of intent said future exchange rate management would take into account the balance of payments position as well as trends in external competitiveness. From January 1, 1989, government will allow oil service companies, selected tourist related enterprises and manufacturers who are net foreign exchange earners exemption from foreign exchange allocation proceedures. Further reductions for other industries are promised by September of next year to free restrictions on import payments aimed at a complete liberalisation for imports in 1990.

By the end of 1989, U.S.150 million dollars (TT637.5 million dollars) of goods, as reflected in 1986 imports (which totalled TT4.9 billion dollars) will be removed from the country's negative list. U.S.50 million dollars worth of goods will be removed before the end of this year.

The trade system will be freed up even further following an expected 1989 policy-based loan from the world bank, the plan said. There will also be amendments to the old controls on foreign investment legislation, the Aliens Landholding Act before the end of this year to remove some restrictions.

Government further promises no new or stepped up versions of import restrictions to help balance of payments during the 14-month fund programme. No new or intensified restrictions on payments and transfers for international transactions will be introduced during this period.

Government hopes new investment will come from new credits from multilateral lending institutions. Government also does not plan to increase its short term debt, excluding normal trade credits, during the fund programme period.

In a bid to encourage savings, government plans to move from a system of direct to indirect taxation over the next two years. The much-criticised direct tax system will be restructured next year and a new value added tax will become effective in January 1990 when marginal individual and corporation taxes will be further reduced.

The Central Bank will also lose its control on interest rates as government said it plans to phase out the Central Bank's secondary reserve requirement, to which all commercial banks must contribute, from January 1989—a move likely to allow commercial banks to entice more savings through higher interest rates.

The market for treasury bills, which currently yield around 4.85 per cent, is to be restructured to allow yields closer to market determination. The plan forecasts a new yield of six per cent on such bills as a result of this change. The plan predicts a two per cent increase in total financial system credit over 1989 as a result of a growth in financial savings.

The government plans keeping only goods important to the low income shopping basket on price controlled lists, therefore decontrolling other items. Steps are also being taken to speed up the system for granting approvals for price increases.

In 1989, government plans to further cut transfers to state enterprises to the tune of TT186 million dollars.

The government said it would be maintaining a slimmed down school feeding programme, subsidies on a small package of basic foods, a programme for help to the elderly, and a job training schemes to offset its adjustment measures. Plans are also in the pipeline to stimulate small business and agricultural development.

President-Elect Invites FDN Parties for Talks
FL2511171288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Nov (NOTIMEX)—President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari yesterday extended an invitation to the parties that compose the National Democratic Front [FDN] so that, aside from political differences, they can establish a dialogue to strengthen an atmosphere of harmony, compliance with the Constitution, and improve democratic life.

Likewise, the president-elect assured that the steps taken to create a climate of dialogue in the entire country are positive. He added: Let's make our best effort to find terms for a dialogue to facilitate the discussion of matters of general interest that will lead to practical solutions. This was announced by the president-elect tonight through his press office.

Cardenas Accepts Salinas Proposal for Dialogue
PA2711193788 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Report on interview with National Democratic Front leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano by Magdalena Garcia de Leon; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The National Democratic Front [FDN] is open for dialogue, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano said today.

[Cardenas] "The FDN has always been willing to hold a dialogue to debate and discuss the major national and local problems."

Cardenas explained the FDN is willing to hold a dialogue with any political force in an atmosphere of respect for the FDN's principles and its followers.

[Cardenas] "I think it would be advisable to know what issues would be discussed. I believe that to sit down at the negotiating table while ignoring what issues should be discussed does not make much sense."

Cardenas explained that commissions could be set up within the FDN as well as within the PRI to agree on the agenda for the talks. He reiterated that he will not interfere with Carlos Salinas de Gortari's inauguration ceremony. Cardenas added that he does not believe it would be appropriate for him to meet with some of the presidents who will be in Mexico to attend the 1 December inauguration ceremony.

FDN Supporters Occupy Mayors' Offices
PA2711130388 Paris AFP in Spanish 0519 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Morelia, Mexico, 26 Nov (AFP)—Hundreds of leaders and followers of the center-left National Democratic Front (FDN) today occupied 37 of the 103 mayors' offices in the central Michoacan State to demand the resignation of PRI Governor Luis Martinez Villicana.

FDN Senators Cristobal Arias and Roberto Robles Garnica tonight told AFP that their followers will continue to occupy the mayors' offices until they take control of the 103 mayorships, because Martinez Villicana's government "has disrupted the state's institutional life." Accusations and demonstrations against the governor, who took office in September 1986, have multiplied in the past few months due to alleged misdeeds by Martinez Villicana's administration, the FDN leaders added.

According to initial reports, the occupation of the mayors' offices began this afternoon. No violence has been reported.

Arias said the mayor's office in Uruapan—the governor's hometown and the second most important city in the state—was occupied.

In Michoacan, the city where opposition leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas was born, the FDN won 12 of the 13 seats for federal deputies and both senatorial seats during the 6 July general elections. In those elections, 76 percent of the Michoacan vote went to Cardenas and 23 percent to Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the PRI candidate.

Senator Arias said the "mayors' offices will not be vacated until Martinez Villicana resigns."

One of the most recent charges against the governor was that one of the people involved in the murder of a young woman during an FDN demonstration at the Ocampo town council was released, even though the killers had been tried and convicted. [passage omitted]

Venezuelans Could Receive Political Asylum
FL2611172588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1629 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Federal Government is still considering the possibility of granting political asylum to the two Venezuelans who sought refuge in the Mexican Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela, inasmuch as it is not totally clear why they are being sought. This was reported by Mexican Foreign Secretariat sources who said Jose Augusto Arias and Wolmer Gregorio Pinilla (Venezuelan fishermen) are not considered refugees at the Mexican Embassy in Caracas. They said the two requested asylum because they felt their lives were in danger. However, although they are linked with a guerrilla group, it is not clear why they are being sought.

The two men seeking asylum were survivors of a clash between Venezuelan soldiers and alleged guerrilla fighters at the Amparo Locality on 29 October. The available official Venezuelan report on the matter says these two individuals, together with 14 others who were killed, were trying to blow up oil installations.

Nevertheless, the sources noted that up to now, the case has not been resolved and the Mexican Government will decide if it will grant asylum to the two Venezuelan fishermen when it is analyzed properly.

Respect for Decision

FL2611173088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2042 GMT 24 Nov 88

[By Rodolfo Rivera, correspondent]

[Excerpt] Caracas, 24 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry have confirmed they are willing to respect the Mexican Government's decision if it decides to grant political asylum to two survivors of the Amparo massacre.

This was asserted by Venezuelan Interior Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi who said if the Mexican Government considers that the refugees are being sought for political reasons and grants them asylum, Venezuela will give the two safe-conducts so they can leave the country. [passage omitted]

Drug Smugglers Arrested; Marijuana Seized

FL2611175288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1757 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Ciudad Victoria, 24 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Federal Road Police [PFC] has reported that it seized 96 kg of marijuana contained in 34 packages and arrested three drug smugglers in the San Fernando Municipality. The PFC stated that the detainees are Roberto Perez Pena, the driver, and Jose Rodriguez Gonzalez and Ramon Caravallo, who were accompanying him. They confessed they were transporting the drug from Naranjos, Veracruz to Matamoros to turn it over to another drug smuggler, who would take it to the United States.

The PFC explained that the arrest was made when Perez Pena increased the tractor's speed when he saw the PFC patrol car. The detainees appeared to be very nervous when they were asked to stop. The vehicle was searched and 34 packages of drugs were found. The suspects were turned over to the Federal Prosecutor's Office.

Costa Rica

Political Rally Teargassed in Cartago 24 Nov

PA2511194088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1834 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] A total of 26 people were treated at the Max Peralta Hospital in the city of Cartago after a tear-gas bomb went off during a political rally held by followers of presidential candidate Angel Calderon Fournier in that city.

Twenty-four of the twenty-six people who were treated were affected by the tear gas while the rest were injured when the crowd began fighting among themselves. No one required hospitalization.

According to the Cartago police report, eyewitnesses said the bomb was thrown by four individuals who were among the participants in the rally and who fled after the explosion.

The crowd rushed at four people thought to be responsible for the explosion. These four people were attacked and their lives threatened, so the police intervened to protect them.

The four people were taken to the Cartago Police Department in a taxi. One of them was Saul Salas, who belongs to the Alegrisimo music group. Salas, who was the most badly injured person in the attack, said that he is a follower of Calderon Fournier and that he was attacked by people of his own party.

No arrests were reported.

Influence of Drug Traffickers Investigated

PA2611232088 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Nov 88 p 3

[Text] The Drug Traffic Commission is carrying out a thorough investigation to determine how successful drug traffickers have been in penetrating Costa Rican media and the judicial, executive, and legislative branches.

The results will be included in a report the commission will submit to the Legislative Assembly Directorate, which has been authorized by the assembly plenum to receive it because of the recess beginning Saturday. The report will be released to reporters later.

In addition, Oscar Avila Sole [not further identified] told LA REPUBLICA that the commission's request—to be filed on Tuesday—to have magistrates and other important officials in the judicial and executive branches removed is well documented.

Avila Sole agreed with fellow member Luis Fishman that, if the commission's work fails either because it is futile, superficial, or ineffective, the country's last chance to root out this terrible scourge will have been lost.

According to exclusive statements made by members of the Drug Traffic Commission to LA REPUBLICA, their report on the Fionna case will be "very direct and concrete." It will contain an introduction, a chapter with filed statements, another with important data from documents provided by the Supreme Court of Justice, and a chapter with conclusions and recommendations.

"It will be more than a simple account of events, Deputy Fishman said, because we are mainly interested in stopping the drug traffickers' from penetrating our country's political media."

Deputy Jose Miguel Corrales added: "Our commission work has convinced us of the need for the Legislative Assembly to establish a permanent commission on drug trafficking because individuals involved in this evil activity are working day and night to corrupt all aspects of national life."

Corrales added: "Drug traffickers want to get their hands on the judicial branch to break the 'permanent' and constant nature of its membership, because its magistrates generally remain at their jobs until they die or volunteer to retire. It is in the interest of drug traffickers to weaken this barrier between their objectives and justice."

As for the executive branch, Corrales said, drug traffickers are trying to take it over because it controls the country's administrative power and entities such as airports, customs, ports, and security, among others that they are most interested in.

Deputy Corrales said he believes that drug traffickers are besieging the national media "because it will in the end expose the activities of this mafia to the public. The same holds true for the legislative branch that issues laws, appoints magistrates, and is the center of the country's political activity."

Corrales added: "However, we must also obstruct drug traffickers' activities in political parties, because democracy would be suffocated and our present way of life would be changed if they fell into the hands of malevolent power."

Corrales admitted that the tentacles of drug traffickers have reached the three state branches, political parties, and the national media. He said the commission's report will contain conclusions on this sensitive issue.

Members of the Drug Traffic Commission said that among the report's recommendations are requests for the dismissal of officials from the judicial and executive branches. They did not rule out the possibility of asking for the resignations of several magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice. They will also ask the Public Prosecutor's Office to investigate the relationships of

Costa Ricans who had maintained close ties with Argentine Roberto Fionna, currently on trial for alleged drug trafficking activities in France.

Ambassador to Peru Resigns

PA2611232988 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2326 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] San Jose, 25 Nov (DPA)—The Foreign Ministry has reported that Alvaro Monge Umana, Costa Rican ambassador to Peru, has resigned effective today.

Monge Umana was linked by the National Drug Traffic Commission to Argentine Roberto Fionna, who was extradited to France some weeks ago.

In a special session last night, the government council accepted Ambassador Monge Umana's resignation. He was ambassador to Argentina some years ago.

El Salvador

FMLN Activities, Clashes, Strikes Reported

ARENA Mayor 'Executed'

PA2711175488 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Nov 88

[FMLN communique issued in El Salvador on 26 November]

[Text] The FMLN reports the following to the Salvadoran people:

1. On Friday, 25 November 1988, FMLN guerrilla units captured Napoleon Alexander Villafuerte, who had been the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] mayor of Sesori, San Miguel Department since October.

2. Manuel Ventura, also an ARENA member, was captured with the Sesori mayor.

3. After confirming that Mayor Napoleon Alexander Villafuerte had been organizing a civil defense paramilitary group and training a network of informers with Arce Battalion officers, the mayor was executed. Manuel Ventura was released because it was determined he was not involved in counterinsurgency activities.

The FMLN reminds all local mayors and officials that we will not allow them to operate in disputed areas under guerrilla control as instruments of counterinsurgency war plans.

We urge mayors and officials to refrain from participating in such activities and to resign. Otherwise, they will continue to be targets of our units for participating in the dictatorship's counterinsurgency war apparatus.

El Salvador, 26 November 1988

[Signed] FMLN

23-25 Nov Clashes Reviewed

PA2611001388 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 25 November transmits 25 minutes of military reports detailing clashes between FMLN units and the Salvadoran Army between 23 and 25 November.

The first report is from the Anastacio Aquino Front, which says that FMLN guerrilla units ambushed a military vehicle transporting Military Detachment No 2 troops on the road between Sensuntepeque and Villa Dolores at 1300 on 24 November, inflicting eight casualties with three Manuel Jose Arce mines.

The second report comes from the Modesto Ramirez Front on Guazapa Hill, which says that FMLN guerrilla units raided 1st Infantry Brigade troops near El Tito hamlet, Apopa Jurisdiction at 0040 on 24 November, inflicting four casualties by rifle fire.

Radio Venceremos goes on to say that FMLN urban commandos killed one soldier and injured a second near La America neighborhood in San Salvador at 1430 on 25 November. The report adds that urban commandos in San Salvador destroyed two electric towers and burned a public bus.

A further report indicates that FMLN clandestine units "successfully" ambushed Treasury Police units driving between Ilobasco and San Rafael Cedro in a military vehicle on 25 November. The FMLN units used three Manuel Jose Arce mines, inflicting a total of eight casualties.

Urban Guerrilla Strikes Noted

PA2511231688 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Five CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectrical Executive Commission] vehicles and one ISTA [Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation] vehicle were destroyed by bombs today. Pedro Arturo Ochoa, owner of the Pac Motor garage, was injured. He was taken to a private clinic. FMLN rebels carried out the attack at 1230. They entered the garage on 37th East Street, in San Salvador's La Rabida neighborhood. The guerrillas ordered the workers to get down on the floor. They then blew up the cars and fled. [passage omitted] CEL Transportation Chief Marco Pastor deplored the attack. He estimated the losses at over 500,000 colons. [passage omitted]

This is the first time FMLN guerrillas have entered a private garage to destroy government vehicles. It is believed soldiers will guard other garages over the next days to prevent further attacks.

In addition, FMLN urban commandos used a bomb to down a electric tower at La Azucena and Old Railroad Streets, in the Sultana neighborhood in old Cuscatlan. Although the explosion did not cause any injuries, it partially destroyed the doorway of a house near the site of the attack. Traffic continues to be blocked as soldiers comb the area searching for the rebels.

The attack on the government cars shows an upsurge in violence in the capital. The FMLN's Juan Jose Castro Urban Command claimed responsibility tonight for the destruction of government vehicles in La Rabida. In a telephone call to our editorial desk, the rebels said they downed several electric towers in several areas in the outskirts of San Salvador. In addition, the Juan Jose Castro Urban Command threatened to increase sabotage operations and attacks on security forces in the next few days.

Further Activities Cited

PA2711214288 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 26 November broadcasts approximately 18 minutes of reports on FMLN actions throughout the country.

The first report cites preliminary details of operation "Our People's Organized and Combative Struggle Is the Alternative to the Electoral Maneuver," which was carried out by the FMLN Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front. According to the station, FMLN guerrillas entered Santa Clara, San Vicente Department, at 0100 on 25 November. It adds that during the 2-hour occupation of the town they totally destroyed the municipal building and the National Administration for Telecommunications office.

According to the "official war report on fighting in Jocoro, Morazan Department," FMLN forces entered Jocoro at 2355 on 23 November, attacking and seizing control of various enemy positions in the town. It states that "the enemy sustained eight casualties, and the electricity substation was partially damaged."

The station reports from Guazapa that FMLN units used mines to ambush a military truck with troops traveling on the Northern Trunk Highway from Apopa to San Salvador at 0810 on 25 November, "inflicting 13 casualties and destroying the military truck."

FMLN Commander Gonzalez on Rebel Unity

PA2511151088 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 19 Nov 88 p 16

[Report on interview with Commander Leonel Gonzalez, member of the FMLN General Command, by Ruben Montedonico—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to Commander Leonel Gonzalez, there is unity in the FMLN and a firm alliance with the FDR. The rebel leader said: "Our military and political actions have increased. We have gained political strength, maturity, and an ability for debate and negotiations. Yet the FMLN and FDR members have retained their individuality.

"Unity is a prime and necessary factor during this crucial phase of our struggle in which our people are watching us and seek our guidance. Decisive moments are ahead during which the FMLN must be prepared to face circumstances as a united front.

"The FMLN is not a party yet. That is not a short process that ends with a declaration. We must work hard; therefore, staying united at this time is essential. We are still in the process of building our party. Whenever our party is created, we will maintain our alliance with the FDR, which is a pluralistic front representing various active trends of our society. We really want a pluralistic society, and in that sense we believe we should be in an alliance with all the groups and forces that favor change. How can we deny political participation earned through sacrifice to those who have social democratic ideas? How can we deny it to the Social Christians, most of whom are linked to the people's purest interests?

"I stress this because the enemy is trying to sell the idea that we intend to have an authoritarian, one-party government. The government claims that if we win, there will be no more elections or democracy. It is exactly the opposite: Democracy will arrive with the people's victory. We are pluralistic and are convinced of the advantages of pluralism. When we say that we want a society with a mixed economy, for example, we are saying that it will include capitalists."

Commander Gonzalez said he shares the opinion expressed by Salvadoran Archbishop Rivera y Damas in the sense that it is somewhat complex to think about a dialogue for a negotiated solution at this time due to the situation of the government and the Armed Forces.

Gonzalez said: "Our new proposal is to sit down at the real bargaining table, leaving behind the phase of confrontational dialogue. The previous dialogues helped define the parties involved, including the United States. We believe there can be a breakthrough in negotiations by accepting the fact that there are two powers in the country."

He added: "Exploratory efforts must continue. For example, we are very satisfied with the exchange of views we had during our tour of Latin American countries. We realized that those with whom we spoke would like to see an end to the Central American crisis and that they favor a political solution in El Salvador.

"In addition, we regard as very important the role that the church has played in the development of the national debate and its new phase, the creation of a permanent commission for peace. This commission has toured

Central America—Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Guatemala—to express its views. This commission can play an important role, and this role should be explored."

Guatemala

Government Explains Incident With U.K. Ship

PA2611005088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2257 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Nov (DPA)—The Guatemalan Government explained today that an incident last Sunday between a British Navy ship and a Guatemalan gunboat "had been resolved" and will not affect diplomatic relations with Great Britain.

Claudia Arenas, spokesman for the Guatemalan Presidency, told the German press agency DPA that a British ship was sailing in Guatemalan waters in the Atlantic Ocean when it was fired at by a Guatemalan gunboat, which fired a "warning" shot 30 meters from the British ship. At no time was there an "attack," as was reported by the British Defense Ministry in London.

According to the British report, the ship was the "HMS Fawn," an oceanographic ship that was traveling between Belize and Guatemala.

The London report indicated that the "HMS Fawn" was in Belizean waters when the gunboat ordered it to halt its course. When the British ship ignored the order, the Guatemalan gunboat opened fire. Telephone communications between Guatemalan and British authorities later cleared up the incident.

Guatemala maintains a claim to 23,000 sq km of Belizean territory. When Belize gained its independence from Great Britain in 1982, Guatemala maintained its claim. The unofficial relations between Belize and Guatemala do not allow trade, tourism, and some forms of cooperation.

Arenas said there are "friendly contacts" with Belize and that the incident with the Britons was resolved when the ship left Guatemalan territorial waters.

Cerezo Supports Cabrera as Party Candidate

PA2511135288 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The Guatemalan president today announced his full support for Alfonso Cabrera, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party, as the party's presidential candidate.

Cerezo expressly denied the possibility that his party would support Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran, who met with Cerezo a few days ago. Cerezo said Andrade Diaz-Duran informed him of his decision to enter politics and discussed national topics with him. They did not discuss the possibility of Cerezo supporting Andrade Diaz-Duran, because Cerezo has given his support to Alfonso Cabrera. Ultimately, Cerezo said, it will be up to the party to decide on a candidate, something that is currently being discussed.

Andrade Seeks PNR Nomination

PA2611124288 Guatemala City LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] Former Guatemalan Foreign Affairs Minister and PNR [National Revolutionary Party] presidential hopeful Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran said yesterday that "recent statements by President Cerezo, that Alfonso Cabrera will be the Christian Democratic Party's presidential candidate, clarify any doubts and reveal to the public that I will be an opposition candidate."

The former UN ambassador pointed out that during the past few days, rumors had circulated that "I might be the Christian Democrats' presidential candidate." However, the statements made to the press by President Cerezo make it clear that the official candidate will be current Foreign Affairs Minister Professor Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo.

Andrade stated: "From a personal standpoint, I thank President Cerezo for clarifying the matter, because it eases the minds of a large number of sympathizers and supporters, while at the same time confirming that the program we have embarked on with the PNR is totally and absolutely independent."

Andrade said he decided to participate in the next election in earnest when he agreed to head a grand, profoundly democratic and pluralistic program of national conciliation, whose goal is to quickly find clear and definitive solutions to the nation's complex problems.

The former foreign affairs minister also urged the country's various political groups to carry out a dignified campaign in which national problems are addressed in a serious and strictly truthful manner, so Guatemalans might feel worthy of esteem and respect before they make a conscientious decision.

Bodies of 21 Kidnapped Peasants Found

PA2711151288 Paris AFP in Spanish 1448 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Nov (AFP)—The authorities today reported that the bodies of 21 peasants who, according to official sources, had been kidnapped by guerrillas were found on Saturday in Chimaltenango Department, western Guatemala.

On Friday, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo and high-ranking military officers reported that the peasants were kidnapped by the Armed People's Revolutionary Organization (ORPA), one of the four guerrilla groups active in Guatemala.

According to military and police officials, the murdered peasants were found in three mass graves dug by the insurgents. The peasants were residents of El Aguacate village in San Andres Itzapa Municipality, Chimaltenango Department, 50 km west of Guatemala City.

Human Rights Group Condemns Murder of Activist

PA2511144188 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1744 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Nov (DPA)—There was widespread condemnation here today of the murder of Eleodoro Ordon Cames, 36, a member of the Mutual Support Group (GAM) human rights organization, who had been kidnapped in front of his 13-year-old son.

The GAM, which immediately reported the kidnapping and carried out intense but fruitless efforts to find the missing activist, last night reported Ordon Cames had been murdered.

Since the organization was founded about 5 years ago, several GAM leaders have been kidnapped and murdered in reprisal for the GAM's struggle to discover the fate of missing people.

GAM President Nineth Garcia, a teacher who continues to search for evidence on the disappearance of her husband, a trade union leader, has received recognition and prizes from international organizations on the GAM's behalf.

Ordon Cames was kidnapped by several heavily armed men and forced into a vehicle on the morning of 16 November. His bullet-ridden body was found on a road yesterday.

In a communique released to the press and published in today's newspapers, the GAM says that "despite repeated statements, telegrams, and legal petitions on Ordon Cames' kidnapping that were addressed to Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, to the defense minister, to the district attorney for human rights, and to other civilian and military authorities, no reply was ever received." The GAM condemns "the complete indifference of the authorities, who should protect people and their families."

The communique also says the murder took place while Hector Gross Spiell, a member of the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission, was visiting Guatemala. The GAM accuses "members of the Chimaltenango military base and military personnel" of the kidnapping and murder.

Honduras

Azcona Dismisses Deputy's Comments on Budget

PA2511174288 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Nov 88

["Exclusive statements" by President Jose Azcona; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] I want to tell you one thing: Life has taught us that words must be considered according to their source. All Hondurans know how serious Deputy Reconco Murillo is and the things he had to do to become a National Assembly deputy. Everyone knows all those things. We should not waste much time listening to his statements.

He made statements about the poverty and enormous inequality that unfortunately exists in Honduras. It is a pity to see that when he occupied high-ranking positions in previous governments, he never did anything to solve those problems. I have made efforts to solve those problems, and I am very concerned about the enormous gap that has begun to open between the rich and very poor Hondurans in the last few years. That is one of my major concerns, and I have been brave enough to acknowledge the problem publicly.

I have told businessmen we must distribute goods widely and fairly. I think the only thing Deputy Reconco Murillo is doing is being a demagogue, because one must not forget we are entering an election campaign. He, of course, believes his statements could get votes for Rafael Callejas, the Honduran National Party presidential candidate, from the poorer Hondurans.

As for the rest of his statements, I think Deputy Reconco Murillo is absolutely wrong. I have never said we do not have problems in Honduras. The only thing I did was not to echo the words of those who overstate our problems. Those who are not in power love to exaggerate.

I am, however, highly concerned that an economist like Reconco Murillo would begin talking about the growth of the fiscal deficit, saying the government has spent too much and that the government has not respected the budget limits approved by the National Congress. That is absolutely false. Those statements merely show that Reconco Murillo does not know very much about handling a budget. The president asks the national budget directorate to handle the budget. We have not overspent our budget. Obviously, there have been requests to increase several budget allocations, and some new allocations were made. We still have to increase the budget allocation for teachers' wages because, upon the executive branch's request, the National Congress itself approved an amendment to the law on the teachers' wage scale, increasing teachers's basic salaries. That is, however, very different from saying we are exceeding budget allocations by millions. That is completely false. Some

expenditures have increased, though, and the National Congress itself approved an increase in expenditures for the National Electoral Tribunal.

Up to 31 October, we increased government spending by 45.5 million [currency not specified] compared to last year, which is a 4.2-percent increase. That is less than the revenue growth for the same period. Do we have problems? Of course, we have many problems. The country's needs are many, as are the demands from various groups. We must fulfill them to a certain degree, and that makes the budget be almost [word indistinct] in regular expenditures compared to last year. There has been a 45.5-million increase in spending.

I believe the statements by Deputy Reconco Murillo reflect the aspirations of certain political parties. I had already been informed of these hopes. Those groups want to make the president desperate and force him to resign [Azcona laughs] to then appoint one of the presidential designates as president. It seems to me Reconco Murillo is revealing his true self. We are not so dumb as to do what he and that group want us to do.

We have problems, and we are aware of that. I believe, even though I am not an economist, that I measure up to Deputy Reconco Murillo concerning the handling of the budget, because—thank God—we are men of figures and know how to handle figures.

Armed Forces Deny Requesting Azcona Resignation
PA2511180588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1640 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 25 Nov (DPA)—The Honduran Armed Forces today denied that they asked President Jose Azcona Hoyo to resign to replace him with one of the country's three vice presidents.

In issuing this denial, the military was responding to rumors that the Armed Forces Superior Council (COSUFFAA), the top Honduran military organization, asked Azcona for his resignation 14 days ago.

Military spokesman Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides told a Tegucigalpa radio station this morning that the Armed Forces recognize and respect the Constitution and the "legally established authorities."

Honduran President Azcona Hoyo yesterday charged that bipartisan groups, including members of his Liberal Party and the opposition National Paty, were seeking to "provoke" him to get him to resign. These political groups have been criticizing the president for his economic leadership and blamed him for the country's worst socioeconomic crisis in 50 years.

With his remarks this morning, Suarez Benavides tried to distance the Armed Forces from the political confrontation, saying that "at no time has the president been approached about a possible resignation."

Suarez Benavides, who is the Armed Forces public relations director, said that the military maintains its "firm support and respect for the president's decisions."

Therefore, he added, the Honduran president's complaints and those of his opponents should be considered strictly within the limits of party politics without getting the military sector involved, as was the aim of certain Azcona followers who made statements insinuating that the military was exerting pressure on Azcona to resign. [passage omitted]

With Suarez Benavides' statement, the military established its intention not to become involved in political discussions, as well as not to try to return to power, a power the military relinquished in 1982 after a decade of military governments.

Azcona: Socialist Support Necessary for Peace
PA2711011788 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2313 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Nov (REUTER)—Honduran President Jose Azcona believes that the cooperation of socialist bloc countries supporting Nicaragua is necessary to restart the stalled peace process in Central America.

In a local television newscast, Azcona said "for Esquipulas to make progress other countries must participate, especially the Central American countries and, for example, the democratic nations of the American Continent; and we must also secure the socialist bloc countries' support."

"Whether we like it or not, there is a link between the Sandinist government and the socialist bloc countries," Azcona stressed.

The Central American presidents signed a peace agreement called Esquipulas II in August 1987, which establishes a cease-fire between governments and insurgents; the suspension of foreign aid to the guerrillas; the establishment of democratic processes; and a general amnesty in countries with internal armed struggles.

One year after signing the agreement, however, civil wars continue in Guatemala and El Salvador, and in Nicaragua a temporary cease-fire was signed, with rebels and Sandinists accusing each other of violating it.

The Honduran president said that although his government does not have diplomatic relations with socialist bloc nations, efforts could be made to secure their support for regional peace efforts.

Azcona said his government offers no support whatsoever to the Nicaraguan rebels based in Honduras; Honduras' participation has been limited to the distribution of the humanitarian aid supplied to the rebels by Washington.

Nevertheless, Francisco Campos Medina, leader of the Honduran Association of Coffee Producers (AHPROCAFE), said in an AHPROCAFE congress that approximately 15,000 contras who settled in El Paraiso Department, in eastern Honduras on the border with Nicaragua, say that the land where they live was given to them.

"Do you know what those stubborn people (the contras) say? ...That the land was given to them," Campos said.

Azcona explained that his government permits the delivery of the U.S. aid to the contras in Honduran territory not only as humanitarian assistance but also as an act of national security.

"These people, without food, medicines, and clothing, could become a great danger for Honduras," he asserted.

The Honduran leader said the delivery of U.S. humanitarian aid to the contras in Honduras must be temporary and that this problem must be finally solved early in 1989, in an obvious reference to the change of officials at the White House.

Honduran officials have repeatedly expressed their fear that if the U.S. support for the contras is suspended completely, the contras could go further into Honduran territory and form armed bands.

On 4 October, Honduras presented to the UN General Assembly a proposal to create a peacekeeping force to oversee its borders with Nicaragua and El Salvador and to prevent actions by guerrilla groups. The initiative also advocates moving the contras to a nation outside Central America.

Nicaragua

Ortega Seeks Meeting With Bush Representatives

PA2611183488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1747 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has been carrying out intense diplomatic efforts to hold his first meeting with the new U.S. Administration during his stay in Mexico, where he will attend the presidential inauguration of Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

According to the government source that disclosed the initiative to ACAN-EFE, the Nicaraguan president might even travel to Mexico today, Saturday, 4 days before the inauguration, to meet with Salinas, who met with George Bush on Wednesday in Houston.

The press has reported that during their meeting Bush and Salinas discussed the Central American situation, especially Nicaragua and El Salvador.

A Nicaraguan minister has stated that the Sandinists have "pulled all the strings possible" to set up a meeting between Ortega and representatives of U.S. President-elect George Bush in the Mexican capital.

According to the minister, the meeting, which the Sandinists say is of "utmost importance," would be aimed at "learning about the new U.S. Administration's willingness to hold negotiations." [passage omitted]

Another government source consulted by ACAN-EFE stressed "the important role" that the new Mexican president can play in normalizing relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Costa Rican, Nicaraguan Ministers Hold Talks

Border Agreement Signed

PA2511140188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1225 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Joint Costa Rican-Nicaraguan communique issued in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, on 24 November]

[Text] Today, 24 November 1988, top-level Nicaraguan and Costa Rican delegations met in San Juan del Sur. The Costa Rican delegation was headed by Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar; Government Minister Antonio Alvarez Desanti; and Deputy Presidency Minister Luis Alberto Cordero Arias.

The Nicaraguan delegation was headed by Interior Minister Tomas Borge. During the meeting, which took place in climate of friendship and cooperation, the following agreements were reached:

1. To coordinate between the [Costa Rican] Government Ministry and the Nicaraguan authorities the return of 360 Nicaraguan citizens who, according to international agreements, do not qualify as refugees.

2. To coordinate between the Government Ministry and Nicaraguan authorities the return to the border of Nicaraguans who do not qualify as refugees in the future after the relevant international agreements are applied.

3. The Costa Rican Government Ministry, through its radio and television office, will urge the media not to encourage or promote uncontrolled immigration.

4. The Costa Rican Government Ministry and the Interior Ministry, through their corresponding immigration offices, will study the simplification of steps to obtain visas, which will allow for the legal transit of nationals from both countries.

5. To make a joint effort by the Nicaraguan authorities and the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry to conduct joint patrols in the border area to guarantee normal border relations and to prevent contraband and cattle

rustling. It was also agreed that both governments would immediately seek to return—according to law—property that was acquired through illegal activities and to fight drug trafficking.

6. To keep open the border posts at Los Chiles in Costa Rica and San Carlos in Nicaragua.

7. To hold a technical meeting in December to prepare an agenda for the holding of a top-level follow-up meeting to discuss the agreements.

8. The Nicaraguan Government informed the Costa Rican delegation on matters that adversely affect Nicaragua's security. The Costa Rican delegation took note of the report and ratified its government's neutrality. Both delegations expressed their satisfaction with the cordial manner in which the meeting was held and with the agreements that were reached, which will contribute to the friendship and cooperation between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

[Signed] For the Costa Rican delegation:
Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar
Government Minister Antonio Alvarez de Santi
Deputy Presidency Minister Luis Alberto Cordero Arias
For the Nicaraguan delegation:
Interior Minister Tomas Borge

Immigration Accord Signed

PA2511141188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1229 GMT 25 Nov 88

["Text" of joint agreement signed by Interior Minister Tomas Borge and Oscar Alvarez Desanti, Costa Rican government and police minister, in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, on 24 November]

[Text] The Costa Rican Government and police minister, the Nicaraguan interior minister, and their respective directors of immigration and alien affairs have agreed on the following:

1. Regarding the 360 Nicaraguan citizens who did not qualify as refugees according to international agreements, the Costa Rican authorities and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees—acting as a third party—will return them to Nicaraguan territory. The Nicaraguan authorities have agreed to this. The Costa Rican immigration authorities will prepare a list giving the Nicaraguan citizens' point of departure prior to their return to Nicaragua. The document will be prepared in the next few hours and will be turned over to the Nicaraguan consul in Costa Rica. The citizens will be transferred with the cooperation of the Inter-Government Immigration Council to the Penas Blancas border post, where they will be turned over to Nicaraguan immigration authorities.

2. Similar cases will be quickly handled in the future, and the immigration directors will coordinate the pertinent details by telephone. It is understood that the Nicaraguan consul closest to the point of entry will provide safe- conducts for the Nicaraguan citizens' journey to a previously agreed upon border post, so that they may be duly identified and allowed to enter their country of origin.

3. The Nicaraguan authorities pledge to issue documents to every Nicaraguan citizen who lacks the proper documentation. The documents will be sent to the respective Nicaraguan consul to allow the citizens' eventual return to Nicaragua.

4. The two immigration directors agree to meet periodically to evaluate these procedures and establish whatever additional measures are demanded by the circumstances.

Issued in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, on 24 November 1988
[Signed] Tomas Borge, Nicaraguan interior minister and commander of the revolution;
Dr Antonio Alvarez Desanti, Costa Rican government and police minister;
Captain Efrain Delgado Banegas, Nicaraguan immigration and alien affairs director; and
Dr Carlos Arce Lopez, Costa Rican immigration and alien affairs director

Contra Radios Discussed

PA2511145288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0327 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Report on news conference by Interior Minister Tomas Borge and Costa Rican Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar at the Barlovento Hotel in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, on 24 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] The important aspect of the meeting between Costa Rican and Nicaraguan officials was the fact that, in addition to the agreements reached on hurricane victims, refugees, and illegal immigrants, the Costa Rican ministers who participated in today's events—Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar, Government and Police Minister Antonio Alvarez Desanti, and Deputy Presidency Minister Luis Alberto Cordero Arias—admitted that two counterrevolutionary radio stations are freely operating in Costa Rica. These stations are Radio Liberacion and Radio Impacto.

This shows, once more, the seriousness and responsibility of the Nicaraguan Government in presenting to Costa Rica its allegations regarding these stations, which continue to incite the international public against the revolutionary government.

Let us listen to Costa Rican Minister Garron.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Reporter] What is the status of Radio Impacto?

[Garron] It is an enterprise that is subject to the country's laws. We do not censor statements before they are made.

[Reporter] Who owns it?

[Garron] I do not know.

[Reporter] Does it mean that these broadcasts are authorized by the Costa Rican Government?

[Garron] Yes, the station has legal status.

[Reporter] Does Radio Liberacion have the same status?

[Garron] No.

[Reporter] Is it a clandestine station?

[Garron] Yes, it is clandestine.

[Reporter] In what part of the territory [words indistinct]?

[Garron] We are trying to pinpoint the location, and we are going to...

[Reporter, interrupting] Do you know generally where it is located?

[Garron] Its location has changed. This has been going on for some time, and whenever we locate it, it moves. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] From what areas have you determined it to be broadcasting in the past?

[Garron] Some times it has been in Tres Rios and at others very close to the Nicaraguan Embassy. [reporters laugh] In fact, once it was detected half a block from the Nicaraguan Embassy. I do not know if this was meant to mock someone, but it is the truth. When we detected it, it switched to another location in Aserri. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Excerpts] Commander Tomas Borge also answered questions from reporters. The Nicaraguan Government delegation expressed the concern of the revolutionary government regarding certain illegal activities beyond our border that affect Nicaraguan security. Here is a portion of what our Interior Minister Borge said:

[Begin recording] [Borge] The Costa Rican Government, through representatives, took note of what we said and reaffirmed its neutrality. Therefore, Filadelfo [ACAN-EFE reporter Filadelfo Martinez] point eight of the agreement answers your question. [passage omitted with portions indistinct]

[Reporter] Commander Borge, you referred to illegal activities and certain matters that affect Nicaraguan security [words indistinct].

[Borge] I think that the explanations given by top army [as heard] officers of the Costa Rican delegation are enough. However, they were not spectacular [word indistinct]. For example, there are airspace violations by aircraft approaching from the south, and everything seems to indicate that—in most cases at least—they do not come from Costa Rica. Sometimes these flights come from other countries. One cannot say that they come from Costa Rica, at least in most cases.

I stress that we are aware of the Costa Rican Government's political will to maintain its neutrality; however, there are certain activities that have occurred in Costa Rica that have already been reported, and I feel there is no need to repeat them.

[Mairena] I am Adelina Mairena of EL NUEVO DIARIO. Commander, [words indistinct] about the Costa Rican counterrevolutionary radio station, but the communique says nothing definite about this station.

[Borge] The text of the communique refers to it. We did not want to issue an explicit communique with all the details.

[Unidentified Costa Rican official] But it is mentioned there and it is a clear point regarding the status of these stations. An effort will be made to find the location of any clandestine station operating from Costa Rica. We hope this will be done and that when these stations are found they will be taken off the air because they have not met the legally established requirements to operate. In addition, point four establishes that the radio stations that are in some way inciting and promoting unrestrained immigration will be [words indistinct] freedom of the press existing in Costa Rica and the respect for the law [words indistinct] as there is no prior censorship so that these actions will stop...

[Borge, interrupting] ...actions by stations that somehow have an impact. [wordplay on Spanish word impacto referring to Radio Impacto] [reporters laugh] [passage omitted]

Honduran Troops Attack Border Post 24 Nov

PA2611125488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1205 gmt 26 Nov 88

["Information bulletin" issued by the Defense Ministry's Public and International Relations Directorate in Managua on 25 November]

[Text] At 1200 on 24 November, Honduran Army troops harassed our troops' observation post in Murupuchi, 4 km north of Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department. They used M-79 grenade launchers and .50-caliber machineguns in firing at our position nine times.

Honduran Army troops have attacked border posts in Region 1 on 10 occasions in November.

Issued in Managua on 25 November 1988

[Signed] Defense Ministry Public and International Relations Directorate

Government Reportedly Breaks Cease-Fire

PA2511131588 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] The Sandinist government broke the unilateral cease-fire by launching a military operation last Sunday [20 November] and reports indicate that one member of the Jorge Salazar Regional Command was killed and several were wounded.

Following the failure of its negotiations with the resistance in June, the Nicaraguan Government has systematically decreed a unilateral suspension of offensive operations every 30 days. The latest cease-fire will conclude in 8 days—that is, on 30 November—and reports indicate that the cease-fire has been broken.

The last paragraph of the report published by BARRICADA says: "The blow dealt to the terrorist group is part of a confrontation plan being carried out by special Interior Ministry-EPS forces and is aimed at fighting and annihilating small 5- to 10-men units who operate against economic targets and the civilian population."

The information clearly reveals, for the first time since 1 April, that offensive operations are officially being carried out to provoke confrontations between the Sandinists and the resistance.

The report sent from Juigalpa by BARRICADA correspondent Tatiana Rothschuh indicates that the clash occurred at El Pital, La Palma sector, approximately 3 km from a rice mill. A man identified as "Javier," a member of the group led by "Pilcacha," who is part of the No 2 Jorge Salazar Region Command, was killed during the operation.

Defense Ministry Denial

PA2511231288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1942 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Defense Ministry Public and International Relations Directorate Communique No 12; issued in Managua on 25 November]

[Text] The Defense Ministry denies charges by the Reagan administration that the Sandinist regime broke the cease-fire that the revolutionary government initiated. The facts prove the Reagan administration wrong. The counterrevolutionary forces are the ones who have systematically violated the cease-fire by implementing terrorist actions against our people. An example of this can be seen in the attack carried out at 0200 on 23 November on the peasant settlement in (El Guabo), located 29 km northeast of Villa Sandino, Chontales Department.

The self-defense forces of that settlement heroically resisted the attack. As a result of this action, 12 peasants of the self-defense group were killed and 4 were wounded. One peasant, Leda Alvarez Gonzalez, 16, was kidnapped.

The terrorist enemy sustained 10 dead. In addition, 9 AK rifles, 20 cartridge clips for AK rifles, 5,000 bullets for AK rifles, 18 grenades, and other war materiel were seized. [Issued in] Managua on 25 November 1988
[Signed] Nicaraguan Defense Ministry Public and International Relations Directorate

Panama

Noriega Addresses FDP Officers at Rio Hato

PA2411183388 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1612 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama Defense Forces (FDP) commander in chief, at a seminar for FDP lieutenants at the Rio Hato military base—live]

[Text] I would like to read a note that I found in the minutes of the meetings held in Washington to draft the canal treaties. It reads: Quote, the United States will try to exert all types of pressure on Panama as the date for its withdrawal from the canal approaches. The United States will use and abuse Law 96-70 to tie Panama's hands and preclude its participation in the joint administration of the canal, unquote. Do you know who said this? [Lieutenants shout: "Diogenes de la Rosa!"] Diogenes de la Rosa. No further comment, gentlemen. [applause]

Mr President of the Republic, Dr Manuel Solis Palma; Mr [former] President Demetrio Basilio Lakas; Messrs ministers of state; honorable parliamentary members; honorable representatives of autonomous agencies; Honorable Pastor Manuel Ruiz; honorable members of the diplomatic corps; honorable Rio Hato Base chaplain; gentlemen:

We are grateful because this seminar was attended in a patriotic and altruistic way by natural, experienced leaders who came from our various provinces to recall historical events for the youths who represent our military future. We express our gratitude to all the political parties that had the opportunity to explain their respective political platforms to the lieutenants attending the seminar. The parties were also given the opportunity to state their views. The lieutenants attending the seminar were able to ascertain the existence of different and new parties, as well as to hear the views of the men who

represent those parties. We thank them for participating in the seminar and having the courage to address the lieutenants attending the seminar.

We also express our gratitude to all the speakers who outlined to our military youth a different approach to our reality. The contributions of the CEM [Strategic Military Council] tactical officers, majors, coordinator, and chief of staff also helped make this seminar a successful event.

Following last night's evaluation, we honestly think that the seed sowed in this seminar will give us the satisfaction of a job well done. We have always said the truth, no matter how harsh it was. We said no when we had to say no, and these officers are aware of a new reality. Our homeland comprises different facets: Our homeland is inhabited by saints and angels, but it is also inhabited by devils; our homeland is inhabited by brave men and heroes, but it is also inhabited by cowards and weaklings. Our homeland is inhabited by many courageous and brave men who are ready to offer their lives, yet one among those thousands will betray his homeland at any moment.

This seminar sought to update and study the FDP's political-military role in our society. These officers' mission is being carried out as part of a nationwide plan in which the Armed Forces pledge to fulfill their constitutional duties. Our computer indicates that 71.27 percent of the current Armed Forces' officers will comprise the top third of the FDP leadership by the year 2000.

These officers, these lieutenants here, have been shaped out of Panama's clay; they are identified by their hometown, not by their lineage or relationship with oligarchs, who always despised the military because the oligarchs preferred to relinquish the defense of their country to a foreign establishment. Furthermore, the control these oligarchs had over the weak public security forces left after the shameful 1904 dismantling of the Republic's Army, whose commander was General Esteban Huerta... [changes thought] The public security forces were always the armed repressive hand that defended the interests of the administration whose turn it was to govern. Military scholarships were requested by humble youths who had no other way of getting an education, yet a superior class felt that those military scholarships were an alternative to a reform school for their misbehaving sons, who were told: I will send you to military school if you continue to misbehave!

For the humble men who entered the military, this represented perhaps the only opportunity to get an education and improve their situation. How late have the oligarchs realized the Armed Forces' role in the construction of a nation!

This seminar has strengthened the nationalist feelings that identify the FDP with the Panamanian mass movement and its patriotic intellectual members. The seminar studied and confirmed the value of the FDP's civic actions as a means of changing beliefs and philosophies and as a means of preventing a social explosion resulting from backwardness and deprivation. The civic action programs continue to pay priority attention to neighborhoods where poverty prevails: for example, neighborhoods in Colon, San Miguelito, and other areas.

We recognize, and we want to be honest in saying this, that the civic actions carried out in those areas do not solve the problem. We do not believe that building a 18-km road to the heart of San Miguelito or building a potable water system and other infrastructure improvements will solve the problem. That is not the solution.

But we have managed to build an infrastructure based on community organization. We have done this together with the organizations in charge of social programs—such as IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute], MOP [Public Works Ministry], INDE [National Sports Institute], the National Mortgage Bank, the Comptroller General, and other institutions—that help build this infrastructure. We are successful because the community participates in making changes and is a part of the working team, and because our officials come over, walk, observe, and cooperate as much as possible to change and perfect this infrastructure. This had never happened before—not in San Miguelito nor in similar areas.

I have visited other parts of the world. I have seen populations that are backward and neglected by their government, where poverty—and everything that poverty entails—abounds. These places are not only forsaken by the government. In these places, the army's presence is regarded with hatred and dislike. We are proud that [former U.S. Southern Command commander] General John Galvin, who understood the issue without political prejudices, saw our civic action program as an example to be used in other countries. Civic action is a vaccine preventing social injustice. Therefore, it must be administered on time.

The FDP aim to guarantee our country's independence, decolonization, and development. We have not renounced this aim, and we will never renounce it. The FDP—despite attacks and aggression—will honor and cooperate with Panama's democratization process. This process began in 1978 with the ratification of the treaties and continued in 1980 and 1984 with legislative and presidential elections, respectively, by direct vote.

We are committed to the May 1989 elections. There are no changes either in the electoral calendar or in the Panamanian democratic process. The 1989 elections are a Panamanian decision, which has been made by our organizations. It is not a foreign order. [applause]

Let us go back in time. When in 1968 several young officers—Torrijos, Boris, Pili, and Sanjur—took power by force, they offered to hand over power to a distinguished civilian, a member of the presidential staff. He decided not to accept it after consulting with the U.S. Embassy.

Those military men did not intend to remain in power, and the proof is that harsh measures were not taken by the military leaders at the time of the coup; rather, it came 4 months after the coup. These harsh measures were necessary because most important economic groups had begun maneuvers to penetrate and control the future actions of the revolutionary government. Those groups were the silk glove that hid the hand of the establishment, which was going to strangle Torrijos on 15 December 1969. The officers, who had already strangled the tough men of the previous coup, were going to strangle Torrijos.

Only when those economic groups saw their actions failing, their leaders arrested, and their fortunes in danger did they seek national conciliation. They sacrificed their political power for the sake of their economic power, which is still affecting us today through the aggression.

Unlike other nations that were part of the cycle of military coups of the time—because the period between 1968 and 1972 was known as the cycle of military coups in South and Central America—Panama did not have a cabinet formed by men with swords and epaulets. The Panamanian revolution let civilians participate in the cabinet. Those civilians issued our current laws. Some of them are now trying to destroy those historic times when they were the protagonists of all actions. [applause]

Now that they try to destroy that past, they do so with great resentment, because the womb of the military regime in which they lived aborted them. [applause]

The FDP will continue to abide only by our Constitution. It will be the political parties and their leaders who will have to respond to the Panamanian voters, and it will be the Panamanian voters who will pick their new leaders. The political parties' complicity with and submissiveness to a foreign flag will be blamed for a delay in the full implementation of democracy, as they want to interpret it. Any step taken at the orders of [U.S. Embassy DCM] Maisto's and [U.S. Ambassador] Davis' embassy is a step backward in the sovereign path of Panamanian democracy. [applause]

Both the elections and 1989 are historic milestones for our colonial liberation. First, according to the Canal Treaty, a Panamanian citizen should administer the canal on that year. I honestly believe that appointment should be based on the candidates' administrative abilities and commitment to actively defend the country's economy. Second, 1989 is the first of the 5 years that precede the final countdown for the return of the canal to Panamanian hands; a canal that Torrijos won through the still-fresh ink of his signature on the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The FDP reaffirm their decision to maintain the character of the Panamanian state, because we stopped being members of the yes-sir club—a submissive club aligned with one country—a long time ago. We draft the list of our friends and enemies either at the Presidential Palace or at the Legislative Assembly, not in Quarry Heights [U.S. Southern Command Headquarters in Panama] or in Washington. [applause]

We insist that the solution to our problems does not lie in putting them off or sitting down to cry because of the aggression.

When the presidential candidate of a certain country asked us, through his election advisers, to tell him something about his opponent, even if it were a lie, we not only regarded it as blackmail but as an insult to Panama's intelligence. Our country saw the Panamanian people's problems malevolently used in an election campaign in which the candidates tried to draw attention away from their own social, economic, legal, and international conflicts. We do not meddle in the election campaigns of other countries. Do not meddle in ours. I predict another candidate will lose because he wants to use Panama as a cause while forgetting the problems of his people. Panama and true Panamanians are aware of that.

With our service economy, it is important that our diplomatic and trade relations expand to serve the foundations of our economic life. From now until the 1990's, Panama must reinforce a policy of militant neutrality, nonalignment, and diversity in its relations with all countries. We also need to continue to find peaceful solutions to conflicts. In military terms, we will respect and comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. To ignore or forget them means to break our commitment to international principles. The Panama Canal's users understand this. For that reason, they continue to adhere to the Neutrality Protocol. We are and will continue to be neutral because of our geopolitical position.

We have never had, nor do we have today, the mentality of an aggressor nation. That is why we believe the canal cannot be turned into an arena for ideological ambushes. Every year, 15,000 ships pass through the canal. Canal users, listen: Panamanians have never attacked the canal or any flag. We have historically followed a policy of Pro Mundi Beneficium [Panama's official slogan] for the world's benefit. The service we offer must also be for Panama's benefit. It is the doctrine of our fatherland and the FDP, which states that we must settle our differences through dialogue and mutual respect.

Our people are not enemies of the U.S. people. We want the U.S. people to know that while they celebrate Thanksgiving—a celebration that represents the determination to build a free and sovereign nation, which was the inalienable right of the pilgrims, who in 1620 abandoned the British crown in search for their freedom, because they did not want their freedom to be like the British version of freedom—the Panamanian people are being besieged by hunger. The other day, a girl in a public school said: We will not have Christmas because the gringo Santa Claus took our piggy bank. We will not make any comment on this. [applause]

Every time we, the Panamanians, have made initiatives to find a Panamanian solution to Panamanian problems, a gringo lover or a gringo has appeared to torpedo, prevent, hamper, or destroy those initiatives. It is time for us to decide on a dialogue among Panamanians without a draft from McGhee [U.S. Embassy political officer] or Maisto. It is time to understand that the FDP would be only a part of a dialogue, not the entire dialogue.

We will not heed those who say: We want to talk with you, or we will find a solution with you. Either everyone participates in the search for a political solution, or we do not participate at all. [applause] The 1990's must be a time of peace and solutions so we can enter the 21st century in peace. A precedent in international law has been set here. "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" should include it in their records. A precedent has been set here: Someone wants to install a phantom president inside an invisible government. [applause]

The political forces should propose a new plan to the country. The plan should include an economic pluralism in which the state, private sector, cooperatives, and other economic organizations pledge to guarantee a public sector economy and various initiatives that would help the country's development. We respect, support, and defend the private sector, but it should be the means to assist the nation's development. The private sector should not endanger small businesses or the Panamanian people's right to feed themselves.

Furthermore, the private sector cannot be an instrument that is dependent on and subordinated to the rules of the game played by the political section of any foreign embassy. The private sector made the grave mistake of mixing its money with wild political schemes and foreign guidelines, and it forgot what our peasants say: If you do not eat, you do not shit. That is why the private sector complains about the Chinese, Greeks, Jews, and all the immigrants or ethnic groups that know that business plus politics equals disaster.

Remember the political persecution that dates back to the early days of the republic? It was an economic persecution. I learned this from one of the distinguished lecturers who participated in the seminar. He also taught us a great lesson. He said: Why do you criticize the fact that the president of the Republic is actually a minister in charge of the presidency, when all the presidents were appointed to the post in the early days of the Republic? They also appointed a relative or close friend to the post of government and justice minister so the latter could guarantee the president's economic stability if he were ousted. This was the routine in the early days of the Republic, and now some people want to present it as a new phenomenon.

Furthermore, the Liberals persecuted the... [changes thought] When the Arnulfistas rose to power, they persecuted Liberal Party members and took away their properties. Such is the case of La Laguna, which is located near this area. Then the Liberals rose to power, and they took away the Arnulfistas' properties. [Noriega chuckles]

Panamanian society must have learned a lesson, and it must have innoculated itself. Its economic system and procedures cannot continue to depend on political whims that are compromised by foreign interests. We cannot hope to become a decolonized country if we continue our dependency on the finger that decides the dollar is our legal tender. The banks must have also learned a lesson: The success of their investments is based on the country's social and economic security and based on the understanding that we are a country whose income is derived from the service sector—complemented by the agricultural and construction sectors.

The heads of the majority of the national, Latin American, and European banks in the banking center have shown they have great management and advisory capabilities. They can reactivate the center by conducting banking operations with the working capital of real businessmen and not of political merchants.

Our crisis resulting from the aggression acts like the Humboldt Current. When it is diverted it produces banks of shells, and when its temperature changes it causes the absence of fish. The existing economic rules—demand, procedures such as bids, the granting of import quotas and stamps, boards of directors, the exclusiveness of medicine brands and drugs, the search for loans in only one power center, and so on—should not continue to be the rules of conduct for economic and administrative officials. There should be no bureaucratic obstacles to slow economic progress and even prevent foreign investors from coming here.

I am certain about the president's concern in this regard, and I have heard him say that many officials follow the same rules used in normal times.

Freedom of speech is directly related to the culture and rules of society. The same rules and procedures that regulate the London press do not apply in the United States. The rules and procedures used in Venezuela do not apply in Costa Rica, the rules used in Nicaragua do not apply in Brazil; the ones used in Chile do not apply in

Honduras; those used in Panama do not apply in the United States, Costa Rica, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. That is, each country has its own system of supervision over its media. Each country in Indian, black, or Hispanic Latin America imposes its own rules by issuing decrees suspending individual guarantees when its rulers deem it necessary. Many countries have lived for years under this security measure in the name of stability and equilibrium. We respect the fact that those governments believed their decisions were necessary at the time because freedom of speech must be regulated by a law that guarantees respect for the constitution, laws, and authority without resorting to lies, libel, disinformation and by respecting truth, not calling for subversive activities, civil disobedience, nonpayment of taxes, and disorder. The media have reached the point of selling the majority of their stocks and assets to foreigners.

Freedom of speech cannot serve the aggressor, colonialist nation that uses journalists, newspapers, television, and radio as its servants in its psychological war. Even individual rights and the privacy of facsimiles are being violated in this disinformation campaign.

We must follow ethical guidelines to guarantee freedom of speech in which state security is not violated with impunity or ridiculed and in which the president is not subject to rumors and jokes. In some countries—coun tries with so-called democratic governments—there are newspaper editors still in jail for violating these rules by, for example, criticizing the first lady.

Panamanian politicians do not understand that, every time they bring in a foreign politician to analyze or talk about our situation, they are not well received.

As for human rights, here in Panama we have the opposition's pet phrases and clucking regarding human rights violations.

However, international commissions—which have nothing to do with our officials—do not see us in that light. It is important to say here that the commissions have received so much paper—a ridiculous amount—accusing Panama of human rights violations that they have decided not to take into account the campaign of those fossils who will do anything to regain the power they have lost. The Pope himself has said that economic boycotts, pressures on other nations to make them collapse economically, discrimination against blacks, and the new apartheid of the all-white Panama Canal Commission, which is taking away all the jobs that belong to the Panamanian blacks and mestizos: these are human rights violations. [applause] The coercive actions against the Marielitos [Cuban exiles] in Miami are human rights violations. What about the human rights of the Cubans made to stay in Panama, who were promised visas that are now denied? They are not in Panamanian jails. They make a living on the intersections of our streets. What about the human rights of a 12-year-old girl who died because she was denied a visa and could not travel to a hospital in the United States? She was not a politician, dependent, friend, or relative of those listed as not being allowed to enter the United States. [She was not granted entry] even though she had the money to cover the hospital costs and had an appointment. What about the human rights of the four Panamanian Air Force members killed in a blackout—a sabotage action plotted and engineered by the actively present foreign forces?

We are not repressive. There are no clandestine cemeteries here. There are no missing people here. We are able to open our jails because we know our prisoners. In fact, our food—the same food that soldiers eat—is the same as the rations given to the prisoners. Toothpaste and other supplies are provided by the soldiers who guard them. After those requesting visiting rights finish their visits, and after the religious services have been ignored by the prisoners in those cells and jails, the imprisoned and solitary man is left with only one friend, one confidante, one person to talk and complain to—the warden, the penitentiary guard, the jailer, who was not the judge who condemned him. [applause]

Our humanization of our jails' goes beyond that. The appointment of a new penitentiary chief, in art and culture... [changes thought] Five Coiba prisoners, the Planton Five, have just recorded a record which will receive international promotion, and the prisoners will receive the proceeds from its sale.

Is this exploitation? Is this a violation? That is what they [not further identified] would like to see. But, no—they want to see the cute little political boys who attacked the nation's security. Why don't they go see the poor, the blacks, the drug addicts, those that society forced to be there? [applause]

In this struggle, in which we are unfortunately fated to end up either a colony or free, we must realize that the plans for a colony are much simpler and have already been made. One need only request a visa and follow the plans in Miami, in Florida.

The other, which is the matter of the active homeland, only corresponds and will correspond to upright men.

The strategy is to infiltrate the parties that follow Torrijism, the FDP, the people's forces, and labor unions, to neutralize them, make them unable to defend national interests, and subordinate them to a high social class that has betrayed the homeland.

I want to stress something in the presence of a witness who is here now, Romulo Escobar. When Mr Walker [U.S. State Department envoy], who is not a negotiator but a man who makes ultimatums, arrived in Panama, he said: You are part of the solution, we need you, because we must neutralize the Democratic Revolutionary Party and labor unions and we must give an opportunity to the upper-middle class that we all know, who

are also nationalistic and will have our support. Here is Romulo and other people who heard that ultimatum. It is neither demagoguery or a new plan. The plan is the plan is the plan. [as heard]

The Panamanian FDP G-2 [FDP intelligence section] indicates that its main intelligence officers continue to report that the infiltration plan remains in effect. This plan includes figures who will head, make up, control, or eliminate political parties. That is the reason for all the flirting they do to get people involved... [changes thought] And they themselves uncover those people, because they send messages saying things like: Yesterday we had breakfast with so and so; last night we saw so and so off; we talked to so and so; so and so gave us this report. They themselves give us information through the hands of the other side. By this they endanger or destroy the personality and validity of those people. They are turning them into political has-beens.

We advocate the preservation of our historic prestige as Panamanians. We want to publicly state that we agree with, reiterate, and accept as subordinates the order of the president of the Republic, Manuel Solis Palma: that no military or civilian official is authorized to enter into talks or deals with officials of Maisto's and Davis' embassy.

Today's lieutenants are the commanders of the first decade of the 21st century. They will represent the future military generation [relevo generacional] in the struggle for the glory of the homeland and for our national goals.

To avoid distrust within that military generation we must include those officers who retired recently. There is nothing mysterious in that retirement. It was in fact an honorable retirement and not one that was conducted through the back door. It is not the kind of retirement that takes military men away aboard one of Carlos Andres Perez' [former Venezuelan president] planes to Venezuela. [reference to Col Roberto Diaz Herrera's departure]

There must not be traitors, cowards, or confused and irresolute men within that military generation. The future will reward the heroes of this battle. It will not be an easy struggle. It will be a day-to-day struggle, one that is fought at every centimeter. Some will be killed and injured, but the final goal marked by Torrijos will be attained by that future generation of officers. That struggle has not only been fought by the FDP, but also by the Dignity Battalions, which are an expression of Panamanian patriotism. It has been the struggle of the people's movements and labor unions, which resisted. It has been the struggle of all patriotic Panamanians, who have no foreign links and whom I, as the leading force of the FDP's forward strategy, promise to support, to promote and broaden within our territory.

As the oldest soldier—by rank—I can tell the lieutenants what I know by experience: Those who think they will get promoted by shirking their duty or opening a box of Cracker Jacks will always suffer from high blood pressure because they will not be promoted. There are no surprises or false expectations in the fulfillment of your duty. The FDP traditionally have their own defense and survival mechanism as an armed force, and they reject foreign forces.

The lieutenants have spoken; they are the voice of our future military generation. They are like the rock that bears the weight and supports the hill; that rock takes the place of the clay which becomes loose with the rain. Those who do not fulfill their duty will be surpassed by their subordinates.

Military youths, soldiers of the homeland, I tell you: The leviathan will not defeat the people who defied the foreign soldiers at Santa Ana in 1925 and who immolated themselves in front of the foreign machineguns in 1964, because the flag of dignity that was raised at Ancon Hill will never be lowered here!

History has shown that treason and cowardice have always found an open tomb in those who are weak of mind, body, or spirit; or in the minds of those who are ambitious and try to rise by stepping on their comrades' shoulders; or in the minds of amoral people who accept ideological surrender in exchange for foreign favors or promises.

We should not be surprised by the reincarnation of treason that existed in the times of Jose Antonio Remon Cantera, Bolivar Vallarino, and Omar Torrijos. That is the law to attain balance; that is Malthusian theory applied to our morals. That is the law of probabilities which indicates that there is 1 traitor for every 1,000 patriots. This seminar must be the inoculation against the cyclic fatalism we have mentioned and the probability of treason.

The lieutenants, analysts, and evaluators who today conclude this seminar, dispassionately guided solely by the interest of a political-military strategy, have stated that they cannot disregard, evade, or ignore those who pledged themselves to the agrarian and urban communities' social transformations. Each man was given a role as subordinate or commander—and that role is still applicable regardless of the political groups that support this government. They have the obligation of preventing anyone from frustrating, replacing, or destroying the 1969 revolution's plans. Such is the goal of the Modelo Project and its latest modifications.

The risks are faced by institutions and men alike because future representatives, legislators, and presidents cannot evade the political struggle. They cannot but behave patriotically and wage an economic struggle to carry out many plans that reactionary sectors have sabotaged due

to pressure or fear. You, the patriots—united to a man—must be the winners of this electoral campaign and prepare for what lies ahead. [applause]

The analysts of this seminar have ascertained that 90 percent of the political forces gathered here prepared a project, or have a project, based on the Torrijist work method. Likewise, 77 percent of the friendly political forces have gained experience based on their knowledge and leadership in community projects. Furthermore, there are plans to arrive at solutions that will help avoid a revolution of hate, a struggle of classes, and a breakdown of society. Also, our electoral process includes the participation of political forces that do not have the same ideology but have enough power to attain a strategic alliance, which must not be feared.

The same criteria may be used by labor union organizations, which should not be taboo for us. Political experts should study and become acquanted with the labor organizations so as to compose their future electoral plans. Considering the above, there can be no room for pettiness and there should be none. There is no room for trivialities, selfishness, jealousy, rivalries, illusions, hesitations, or unrealistic dreams either, because any adjustment or discrepancy will be compensated for in the long run. You must maintain or perfect the political power bequeathed to you by Torrijos in 1969, by correcting mistakes. [applause]

I would like to summarize this by saying: First, the purpose of civic action is the people's welfare. Second, for the Panama Defense Forces, man, as a son of God, is the fundamental thing. Third, politics is only a vehicle, the driver of which is the people. Fourth, democracy is nothing but demagoguery when it is imposed by a foreign state and when it does not include the fundamentals of social justice. Fifth, Panamanian investment capital must be subject to the geopolitical reality of trade and service with an adjustment made to fit the new needs of its users, a new international banking center with capital serving the economy. Sixth, patriotic labor union organizations and their honest leadership are elements of a strategic alliance, which has been engaged throughout the 19th and 20th centuries in a disadvantageous struggle to achieve the most basic gains, which they have the right to have. Seventh, ever since Panamanians began to feel they were inhabitants of the earth, they have evolved toward higher levels of integration by means of trial and error in the defense of their own nationality and social status, whereas in the past they were kicked to the side by the characteristically dependent governments for 65 years, if one takes into account that the republic is 88 years old—85 years rather.

The preservation of the land, by respecting its ecology, forces us to realize that we are destroying the capacity to produce raw material to continue living or producing. This means that the total defense of our soil, the health of our environment, and the preservation of our species are all matters of national security.

Eighth: Respect for the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and their implementation is not only an international commitment but also a promise made by honorable nations.

Ninth: Because of our culture and upbringing, our civilian and military communities are not prone to crime, violence, or harassment against foreigners who live in our country.

Tenth: Treason is a human phenomenon that should not surprise us and which is heightened when foreign interests dominate the weakness of the sick or exploit human faults. The traitor has no rank; however, it is easier to forgive a treacherous soldier than a treacherous colonel. [applause] At home, or abroad, the punishment for a traitor is the knowledge that he will never be able to return to that military family that breast-fed [amamanto] him.

I will conclude by specifically and especially thanking all of you for being here. I particularly wish to thank the president of the Republic, who, because of a historic coincidence, must feel strong emotions at this time of year. He was sent to prison for the flagrant crime of struggling for national sovereignty while opposing the signing of the treaties between the United States and Panama that gave the United States the rights over Rio Hato Military Base for another 25 years. Today we are standing on this piece of liberated land. [applause]

As a testimony to the oath taken by the lieutenants and in recognition of this athletic president who is running the relay race that will end when the homeland is liberated, I want you to think profoundly about my message and about Torrijos': He left you the message that those who allowed others to take away what Panama had achieved with the canal treaties and the political power he had bequeathed were true assholes [pendejos]. [applause] As a symbol of today's message, I ask that we all give the president of the Republic a standing ovation. [applause]

Solis Palma Opposes Call for National Assembly

PA2511174688 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 23 Nov 88 p 7

[Text] President Manuel Solis Palma has rejected the idea of convoking a national constituent assembly as a means of solving the current problems of the Republic.

"The members of the People's Action Party have been talking about a constituent assembly, but we have not as yet mentioned this as a possibility," the president said.

Solis Palma also reiterated his government's willingness to hold elections in 1989:

"We have budgeted for the costs, supplies, and staff required for the next elections, and I think the only ones who are going to have problems with the resources they will need for their campaigns are the candidates and the political parties," the president concluded.

Assesses Davis' Comments

PA2611003088 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 25 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] President Manuel Solis Palma has called U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis a "soothsayer" [pitoniso] (someone who predicts the future), in view of his recent statements announcing that "something was going to change in Panama."

The president said Davis "apparently has now become a soothsayer, threatening to do senseless things to maintain the unrest and uneasiness in Panama."

Solis Palma also reiterated that he had prohibited government officials from having any contact with U.S. diplomatic officials unless he authorizes it.

The president indicated that thus far he has not received any message from George Bush's administration seeking to normalize relations between the two countries.

PDC 'Will Participate' in 1989 Elections

PA2511194488 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 24 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] "The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] is a party willing to fight, and it will participate in the 1989 elections," Dr Carlos Arellano Lennox, vice president of that opposition party, has told MEDIODIA.

The PDC is the first party from the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO) that has announced its willingness to participate in the 7 May 1989 elections. The elections will choose the president, 2 vice presidents, 67 legislators, and 505 community representatives.

According to Carlos Arellano Lennox, "the PDC will participate in the elections to prove that the people do not want this government."

The PDC vice president said the elections are necessary because they represent "a plebiscite" through which the people can choose who will govern them, as well as reject a system of government of which they do not approve.

Carlos Arellano Lennox also ruled out that his party will nominate a presidential candidate who does not belong to any political party, because the country has deep economic, political, and social problems that a president without political experience "will not be able to solve." "A lot of political maneuvering will be necessary," he added.

Argentina

Alfonsin Returns From Europe; Agreements Signed

PY2711231588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2235 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (NA)—The airplane that brought President Raul Alfonsin and his entourage back from a 6-day tour of Italy, the FRG, and Spain arrived at Ezeiza International Airport at 1930 local time today.

In the course of his tour, the Argentine president signed new economic cooperation agreements and ratified others.

Arab Diplomats Meet Foreign Ministry Official

PY2511015888 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2254 GMT 24 Nov 88

[All names and titles as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (DYN)—Four Arab diplomats went to the Foreign Ministry today to discuss topics of bilateral relations and possible Argentine recognition of the new state of Palestine. The diplomats expressed optimism about this possibility.

Representing the seven Arab states accredited in Argentina, the ambassadors of Morocco and Iraq, Mohamed Boucetta and Husayn Tahir al-Samawi, respectively; the Saudi Arabia charge d'affaires, Mohamed Sabri Sultan; and Arab League delegate Fayiz Sa'id met today with Special Affairs Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe.

As he came out of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Boucetta talked briefly to DYN, saying that "all aspects of Argentina's relations with the Arab countries were discussed."

When asked if they had talked about the possibility of the Argentine Government recognizing the new state of Palestine that was proclaimed in Algeria last week, Ambassador Boucetta was smiling when he replied: "When relations between the Argentine Government and the Arab countries are discussed, the topic of the recognition of the new Palestine state cannot be left out."

When asked how he felt about that possibility, Boucetta answered: "Very optimistic."

Army Chief of Staff Addresses 300 Officers

PY2811014588 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Nov 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Jose Dante Caridi yesterday told 300 officers who gathered at the main hall of Libertad Building, that the Army "is known for being apolitical and for respecting the Constitution and the laws." He stressed that the Army "will maintain its absolute respect for the decisions made through the political mechanisms established in the prevailing constitutional system."

Caridi warned the Army officers that "some sectors will try to draw attention to the Armed Forces," as a way of obtaining political advantage and called upon the officers to confront adverse situations with courage.

These statements were heard by 300 officers while Caridi was giving instructions for 1989 to high-ranking officers, newly appointed unit chiefs, and those who are currently on active duty.

Caridi also said that "the Armed Forces definitely do not want to be used as an instrument during the electoral campaign." Caridi made this statement before warning officers about the groups that could try to use the Army for their own purposes. [passage omitted]

Centrists, Progressives To Support Alsogaray

PY2711234188 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Nov 88 p 15

[Text] (DYN-NA)—During a meeting fraught with confrontation, the Democratic Centrist Union (UCD) and Progressive Democratic Parties voted last night to support UCD leader Alvaro Alsogaray and his running-mate Alberto Natale in the 1989 presidential election.

In statements made during the meeting, a Cordoba party leader, Felipe Crespo, complained bitterly that the UCD's election effort was a sham and everything was already rigged so that party members would vote for Radical presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz.

In turn, Crespo told Alsogaray that he was not a leader "but a farce, an imposter, a cretin, and a liar."

Without losing his temper, Alsogaray told reporters that Crespo's outburst was probably planned beforehand and he added that his party had not attempted to reach an agreement with the Radicals or Peronists with regard to the upcoming election. "Our principles are diametrically opposed to statist, inflationary, populist and demagogic policies that the other two parties espouse," Alsogaray said.

Before ending the interview, Alsogaray characterized Crespo as "insane" while Crespo said that the UCD under Alsogaray was a "fascist party, devoted to multinationals and corruption."

Investigation Into Clandestine Arsenals Continues

PY2511182788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1210 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Nov (TELAM)—San Isidro Federal Judge Alberto Piotti ordered two new operations in Buenos Aires. Only one of these operations was successful; ammunition, ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise] cables, materials for melting, and antimony bars were found at 2100 Lope de Vega Street.

Yesterday's second operation was carried out at property on the corner of Santo Tome and Benito Juarez Streets. Both operations are linked to the search for clandestine arsenals.

Court Secretary Alejandro Guillot, ENTEL management inspector Alberto Fernandez, and police from Buenos Aires and the Tigre regional unit were in charge of the operations.

Police and court personnel first went to the building at 2142 [figure as received] Lope de Vega Street, where material for melting, antimony bars, and ammunition were found. The property belongs to one of the suppliers of the Vastia firm, where a large amount of communication material, reportedly belonging to ENTEL, had been found. The Vastia firm had been raided last week.

After raiding the property, the ENTEL inspector reported to the press about the material that was found. He could not, however, specify whether this material in fact belongs to ENTEL. Appropriate examinations will be made to find out the origin of the material.

After the first operation, which concluded at 1830, court and police personnel raided the house located on the corner of Santo Tome and Benito Juarez Streets. This operation, similar to the first one, was unsuccessful and lasted approximately 25 minutes.

Bolivia

Deputy Speaks on Installation of U.S. Bases

PY2411150588 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Deputy Horacio Quiroga, president of the National Defense Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, today labelled, as very alarmist, the statements concerning the installation of U.S. military bases in Bolivia.

Quiroga described as groundless the criticism against the government and the Bolivian Armed Forces over the presence of some U.S. military technicians who are cooperating in tasks, described as civic actions, in several districts of the country.

[Begin Quiroga recording] What we know is that U.S. Armed Forces technicians are in Bolivia. These technicians do not carry weapons; they have not brought weapons. They are veterinarians, physicians, dentists, engineers, and topographers who, along with Bolivian Armed Forces Technicians, are undertaking useful and necessary social and civic tasks in several communities in Bolivia. Proof of this is the work we have performed in [word indistinct], which you must have verified. You have also reported [word indistinct] about this type of work. I would also like to tell you that there are good projects for the Potosi airport. [end recording]

Quiroga said that the presence of U.S. military technicians is part of the existing agreements for military cooperation between the two countries. Therefore, no congressional authorization was requested.

U.S. Congress Drug Trafficking Report Rejected

PY2411114588 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Nov 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Bolivia has eradicated 2,749 hectares of coca plantations, has seized 22,500 kg of cocaine (1985), has destroyed over 2,000 cocaine factories, and has sent over 1,000 people to jail on drug trafficking charges since 1986.

Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has rejected a U.S. Congressional report that criticized Bolivia for the way it fights drug trafficking in the country.

According to Duran, the report is not reliable because it does not include data on the work to suppress drug trafficking in our country. This work has been recognized by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Interior Minister Duran recalled that the U.S. Secretary of State, as well as various drug control organizations, praised the Bolivian Government's efforts to eradicate the illegal trade.

"I emphatically say that the report is not correct. It does not address the issue with the responsibility and seriousness demanded by the problem. The U.S. State Department, the U.S. Executive Branch, the various U.S. departments in charge of drug trafficking control, and the U.S. president himself have confirmed our efficiency and progress in the fight against drug trafficking," Duran said.

Duran made a summary of the government's achievements in drug control from the date it took power in 1985.

Duran said the publication attributed to a U.S. Congressional office contradicts all those other reports on the work of our government in this field.

"We want to improve our image and cannot allow a simple publication to hinder the government work," Duran said. The interior minister added that Bolivia is a leader in the fight against drug trafficking in this part of the world. Duran said the fight against drug trafficking in the country is not known to be obstructed by any corruption. Duran added that the government closely supervises the work of all national institutions charged with fighting drug trafficking. A generalization that includes our institutions with others in the region is a mistake, Duran concluded. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney To Meet Argentine President on 28 Nov

PY2311132688 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin will meet late this month in Buenos Aires. They will discuss topics such as foreign debt, the Latin American common market, and bilateral trade. The Brazilian President's trip will begin on 28 November and end on 30 November, and it will be his last trip abroad this year.

President Sarney's trip to Peru, which was to have taken place on 3 December, has been postponed until next year.

The delegation that will travel to Argentina will be made up of Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega, Industry and Commerce Minister Roberto Cardoso Alves, and Military Cabinet Chief General Rubens Bayma Denys. Three state governors will also be members of the delegation: Alvaro Dias of Parana State, Pedro Simon of Rio Grande do Sul, and Pedro Ivo of Santa Catarina. Six congressmen, CACEX [Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department] director Namir Salek, and CNEN [National Nuclear Energy Commission] president Rex Nazareth will also be included in the delegation.

Palestinian State Supported, Not Recognized

PY2311155288 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The Brazilian Government today released a note supporting the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian state was founded 8 days ago in Algiers by the National Palestinian Council, the parliament in exile.

In its official note, the Brazilian Government reaffirms the right of the self-determination of the people and it calls for peaceful solutions to the Middle East conflicts.

Even though it supports the declaration of independence, however, the Brazilian Government does not recognize the Palestinian state.

President Sarney Reacts to Election Results

PY2511154688 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 25 Nov 88

[President Jose Sarney's weekly "Chatting by the Radio" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I want to make a profound analysis of the recent elections. Neither the winners nor the losers should make a mistaken assessment of the electoral process. This would be an irreparable mistake. Voters who participated in the 15 November elections, in a brilliant show of democracy, cast their votes in keeping with the principles of the federation, of the Republic, of ideological pluralism, and of freedom of choice. Their votes cannot be regarded as a vote against the political system, as a vote for the destruction of freedom and elections, or as a vote for the use of violence to seize power. Their votes cannot be used to violate the individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution: the right to freedom; the right to own property; the right to an inviolable conscience and belief; the right to freedom of the press and opinion. [passage omitted]

Whoever believes that democracy is a tactical process does not believe in its values. Only totalitarian regimes use the democratic process to destroy the democratic process. We have to make our choice, and that choice must be democracy. I have served democracy by giving good examples and by making sacrifices. This has helped me face many difficulties and overcome many obstacles.

I am certain that we are defending something very important: the ideal of building a real democracy with the freedom and the right to question the governments, to question freely whatever we feel we must question. For this reason I consider the elections a victory, a democratic affirmation, and not a tactical process for other adventures.

As Goias State Governor Henrique Santillo has said, whoever bets on the crisis will lose, and what is more, there will be no winners. I want to reaffirm, therefore, that the elections demonstrate the pluralism of society, as I said last Friday. No one is hegemonic, and no one can use victory or defeat to depict the elections as a tool of regression rather than progress in the Brazilian political process. My call, therefore, is to remain united, to overcome obstacles, and to solve our problems. We have to repeat that Brazil is a great country with a great present and a great future. [passage omitted]

Government Studying Plans To Curb Inflation

PY2611150088 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has said in Rio de Janeiro that the government is studying a plan to eliminate the possibility of hyperinflation once and for all. He added that the objective of the government is to adjust the economy to reduce the monthly inflation rate to 10 percent in 1989.

Nobrega said that three plans are under study. One is a very short-term plan to prevent hyperinflation. Another is for bringing inflation to an estimated monthly rate of under 10 percent in 1989. The third is a medium-term plan to create conditions for the recovery of the social sectors. The minister did not disclose the details of the plans. Despite so much optimism, however, the minister

said that it is necessary to be realistic and to appraise properly the possibility of preventing price increases in order to keep the January inflaiton rate under control.

Nobrega expressed optimism over the adoption of the free exchange rate system for exports, and he added that this measure will not influence inflation.

Concerning the minimum salary, the minister said he will do everything in his power to prevent a 100-percent increase because, in his opinion, the country is unable to pay for the congressional salary proposal. The minister explained the negative effects of a salary increase:

[Begin Nobrega recording] It would have serious consequences. First, some states and municipal districts would be unable to meet their payroll, because a high percentage of public servants earn the minimum salary. The readjustment may cause problems for small and medium-size companies, resulting in increased unemployment. [end recording]

Nobrega added that a 100-percent readjustment of the minimum salary may have considerable impact on the economy and hinder the efforts to curb inflation and to reach a social pact.

Steel Workers Lift Strike, Army Troops Leave
PY2311163188 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The strike by workers at the Volta Redonda National Steel Enterprise has come to an end. The workers decided to return to work during a meeting held this morning outside the gates of the plant.

The workers will receive an 8-percent salary increase, a 30,000 cruzados bonus, payment of the July through November URP [Price Reference Unit], the rehiring of workers that have been fired, and a 6-hour work shift.

Army troops are already withdrawing from the plant's installations following the lifting of the 17-day strike.

Army Denies Report on 'Alleged Disagreements'
PY2411111088 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The Army's communication center today denied a report published by JORNAL DO BRASIL on alleged disagreements among Army generals during the last meeting of the high command.

According to the daily, two Army generals had disagreed with the Army's actions during the strike by employees of the National Steel Enterprise in Volta Redonda.

The Army denial is signed by General (Jose Ary Lacombe), chief of the Army Communications Center, who states that the report is inaccurate and adds that the information, which is merely speculative, suggests the existence of unacceptable divisive situations.

Sao Paulo Mayor-Elect Views Road to Socialism
PY2411222688 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Nov 88 p A-5

[By Clovis Rossi]

[Text] Sao Paulo Mayor-elect Luiza Erundina from the PT does not believe that socialism will be implemented in Brazil by way of the electoral process. Her party defends socialism. She also accepts the armed struggle as "a condition for the structural transformation of society," provided, that is, that the struggle is the majority's decision.

Erundina shared her controversial opinion in the "Live Round" program aired by Sao Paulo TV Cultura the night before last at 2130. She opened the program by saying: "At no time do we imagine that the electoral process will lead the way to socialism."

Erundina then explained how she thinks socialism can be installed, and the PT's plan of action. "In participating in elections as it did this year, the PT is playing the democratic game within the limits set by society and the current regime. This does not mean that we relinquish our strategic objectives, which are set far beyond the present time. The conditions for us to attain our greater objective do not exist. That greater objective is to transform the structure of society so as to eliminate all forms of oppression and injustice," she said.

She defended the idea that the struggle within the framework of existing institutions is compatible with the PT's long-term objective. "It is not incompatible, nor is it necessary to discard the institutional struggle in order to later bring about in-depth transformations through the implementation of socialism."

After insistent question by the interviewers, Erundina played down the validity of elections as a way to socialism. She affirmed: "The isntitutional struggle, Congress, and elections can work only within the limits set by the existing system. Within the existing correlation of forces, in an hypothetical case, we would not be allowed to argue and gain power to do that."

After that introduction, the mayor-elect accepted the premise that in order to implant socialism there will have to be, at some time, a break in the existing institutional order. "At some time, if that break happens and if the objective conditions should develop, there will be no other alternative," she said.

She added, "That situation will not come to pass by the decision or participation of a party. That situation presuposes a collective will broader than that of a single party. If the majority decides that the armed struggle should be the means to transform the structure of society, no single party, not even a party like ours, will avert the armed struggle. That will be the result of a historical process that will provide leverage for a party's project. If that is the majority's decision, there is no way to keep it from happening."

Along the same line of thinking, Erundina said that the previous armed struggle experience in Brazil "did not represent an option of the majority. The people did not think that way, nor were the workers mobilized in that direction. The situation is the same today. But at the moment when the majority makes that decision, a party that professes to be a workers party cannot remain separated from the process—if that is the sovereign decision of the majority."

The mayor-elect recognized that the PT's concept of socialism is not "a finished model," but noted that the different internal lines of thinking have a common denominator, which she defined as being "the building of a society where the ownership of the means of production is not in private hands, but is socialized, and where power is under the control and direction of the majority."

Erundina believes that the PT is providing "the world a great experience on how to build a socialist party, a democratic party of the masses; a party moving apace with the organization of workers in order to create new forms of living in society and thereby transforming society."

The mayor-elect believes it is a good thing that "we have not imported a ready-made model based on other people's experience," because, in her opinion, that would create a "straitjacket" for the PT.

On administrative matters, Erundina reiterated her well-known positions, such as the creation of "popular councils" as a "body of autonomous popular representation, independent from the state, the Executive and Legislative branches, the political party, and the church," and the monopoly of the CMTC [Municipal Collective Transport Company] in the operation of collective transport, at least during her term in office.

Chile

Pinochet Promises to 'Depart Quietly' in 1990

PY2511174888 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Report from La Moneda Palace by Eliana Henriquez]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has said that his tenure as Chilean head of state will end on 11 March 1990. He said that he will depart quietly as General Venancio [not further identified] did in Rome.

Pinochet, who celebrates his 73d birthday today, said these in brief remarks to the journalists at his residence on Presidente Errazuriz Avenue in Las Condes District.

Asked how he felt today, Pinochet responded:

[Begin Pinochet recording] [Words indistinct] for Chile has been fully completed. I finish on 11 March 1990. Then, I will depart quietly as Venancio did in Rome [words indistinct] went to his farm [words indistinct] a plow. [end recording]

The head of state added that he is convinced that he has served the country. I have been fully dedicated to Chile, and in the past 15 years I have not had any vacation, he said.

I am the first one to arrive at La Moneda and I am the last one to leave, Pinochet pointed out. He insisted that he has served the country and that it is a matter of looking at the progress made and the obstacles overcome.

Foreign Minister on U.S. Visit, OAS Meeting

PY2511220388 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has said that the United States now has a better understanding of the Chilean reality.

This morning the foreign minister reported on his activities during his visit to the United States where he bade farewell to U.S. officials after 4 years as Chilean ambassador to that country.

Regarding the OAS meeting in El Salvador, the minister said that Chile achieved its goals at the meeting. He added that Bolivia failed in its attempt to force a favorable resolution on the sea outlet issue at the OAS meeting, and the final resolution did not satisfy its aspirations.

Asked about the case of terrorists in Mendoza who are linked to Chilean groups, Errazuriz said there was nothing new to report and that the government is satisfied with the way Argentine authorities are handling the situation.

Errazuriz said no one should interfere with our political process by supporting subversives in the country.

The minister said the proposal of some labor leaders to promote an international boycott of Chilean products was unacceptable. Errazuriz said the initiative proves that workers are being used for political purposes and that the move hurts the image of all workers.

Pinochet Family Mausoleum in Santiago Bombed

PY2511150388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1444 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Santiago, 25 Nov (AFP)—Police sources have reported that a bomb exploded today at a mausoleum owned by the family of Chilean President Augusto Pinochet at the Santiago cemetery.

The explosion, which occurred at about 0110 (1310 GMT), seriously damaged the mausoleum.

At the time of the attack, for which no organization has claimed responsibility so far, the Chilean president was participating in a succession of public ceremonies honoring his 73d birthday.

Carabineros Deactivate Powerful Bomb in Santiago

PY2511201988 Santiago Television Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Today Carabineros deactivated a powerful bomb, on the Americo Vespucio Avenue, 5 minutes before it was due to go off.

Criminal had planted the bomb at No. 81 Americo Vespucio Avenue. It contained 7 kg of ammonium gelignite and it was set to go off at 0900.

Five minutes before it was due to go off, personnel of the Carabineros Special Operation Group, GOPE, deactivated the clockwork mechanism, thus preventing a tragedy of unpredictable consequences.

General Gabriel Ormeno, chief of the Carabineros Metropolitan Zone, today reported on this incident:

[Begin Ormeno recording] The explosion could have caused severe damage in the surrounding areas, especially to the bank building. I think that many people passing by might have been seriously affected because there is a bus terminal and a subway station in the area and at around 0900 many people get off at these stations to go to work. [end recording]

MIR Calls for Mass Struggle Against Regime

PY2311023888 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Nov 88 p C-2

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] has decided that in the next few months it will carry out "a struggle of the masses" to destabilize the military regime by "all forms of struggle." The MIR rejected the strategy of dialogue advocated by the opposition's democratic sectors.

The MIR added that it will "take advantage of any situation" and that it will use the electoral process by registering a leftist party.

MIR spokesman Jecar Neghme talked to the press yesterday about the resolutions approved at the latest MIR Central Committee meeting held on 6 and 7 November. He said that it was the first meeting held in Chile since July 1973.

Neghme stated that in addition to political issues, the Central Committee also paid homage to Raul Pellegrin and Cecilia Magni, members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front who were killed recently.

In a public communique, the MIR criticized the opposition parties for "not listening to the national clamor for Pinochet's resignation" and for giving priority to "a strategy of shady deals at the top level."

The communique adds: "Although the document released by the 16 political parties focuses on some of the people's demands, its main defect is that by including the demands as part of a negotiating strategy and by making the mobilization tasks unclear, the demands of the Chilean people will not be heard."

The MIR also said that next year it will struggle for the immediate end of the regime and the Constitution, the creation of a provisional government, the election of a constituent assembly, the strengthening of the United Left, and the preparation of a "democratic and popular program" for the country.

The communique says that to achieve those goals the MIR will promote a tactic "to destabilize the regime, to make the institutions illegitimate, to democratize the country, and to accumulate greater force."

The communique also points out that the MIR will use "the limited possibility of participating in elections beginning in 1988." This is why the MIR supports the registration of a leftist party: to prevent the exclusion of the left and "to promote the gains of the people."

Colombia

President Barco Speaks on Security Situation

PA2611041788 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0241 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Speech by President Virgilio Barco; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow Colombians: Before discussing the public disorder situation, I want to point out, once again, that the government realizes that floods caused by the harshest rainy season in the country's history have resulted in grief and desperation for thousands of Colombians.

Because of this, and despite the limitations encountered in any struggle against nature's forces, the government, through the Presidency's National Office for the Prevention of Emergencies and other government services, will continue to do everything possible to assist the victims.

In addition, I am grateful for the solidarity of all the people with all the victims, which has made more efficient government assistance possible.

In the past few weeks, subversive and terrorist groups have increased their monstrous and base actions to destabilize the country. In Segovia—in a merciless, cruel action that deeply moved the country—a group of criminals murdered men, women, and children in cold blood. I share with all Colombians a feeling of indignation and the deep grief of the victims' relatives and friends. The government has already taken measures to make sure that those who perpetrated this savage action will be severely punished. I am confident they will be punished most severely very soon.

On Tuesday, in a lunatic attempt by criminals to kill Defense Minister General Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz, three noncommissioned officers who escorted him lost their lives. I want to express my condolences to their relatives and friends. I also want to express to Gen Guerrero my support and that of the Colombian people. He has demonstrated his patriotism and democratic convictions. We all know he tirelessly struggles for peace and strenuously defends democracy.

Colombia's enemies have not considered that they are confronting a nation that becomes greater and stronger in the face of threats.

Few countries in the world share Colombia's current situation and the resources to promote everyone's well-being. We will not let violence take from us what we all have achieved. The political forces and the groups who said they have a sincere desire to join society and abandon violence must resolutely reject these loathsome actions and cooperate with the government in its efforts to restore peace.

The people should also firmly oppose these actions. Those who practice violence must take notice that the country condemns them and unhesitatingly rejects their actions. Those who practice violence must become convinced that we Colombians want a peaceful, prosperous country, and that we will struggle against the violent minorities that try to intimidate us.

I call on the Colombian people so that united we will confront those who practice violence, regardless of their origin or reason. Let us express our solidarity and commitment with those who wear the uniform of the homeland and who, on a daily basis, risk their lives to protect our freedoms, traditions, achievements, and lives. No more negative attitudes, no more hiding from the problem; let us show the world we are not a silent and terrorized people, but a vibrant nation that does not yield to terrorism. We have not forgotten our fellow countrymen who have given their lives for us. Anyone who allows himself to be demoralized or paralyzed by pessimism or skepticism is also dangerously playing the game of those who practice violence.

Furthermore, the authorities need your efficient and active collaboration. You must report the criminals. You must set aside fear and negligence and help the judges, policemen, investigators, and soldiers. It is so easy to talk about crimes going unpunished, yet the authorities are not receiving the efficient cooperation they need. It is necessary that each and every one of us who rejects violence, acts in a decisive manner to stop violence.

We cannot accept violence as something normal or unavoidable, nor can we accept those who try to gain personal, political, economic, or electoral profit by cooperating quite comfortably with those who are promoting violence. The masterminds of the massacres, ambushes, attacks, blackmail, and intimidation, and those who support them, are just instruments of death, grief, desolation, and destruction.

We cannot accept a person who says that through violence we can achieve progress and well-being. I cannot believe there are still some shameless people who can say terrorism or violence is the path that will lead us to achieve the changes that the country needs. Violence can only bring more violence and more destruction. This is what those who murder peasants and soldiers seek; this is what those who kidnap, attack, and destroy bridges, pylons, and oil pipelines seek. All those who have armed themselves to sow chaos must know their enemies are not the people who live in a town or the members of a specific political organization—soldiers, policemen, leaders, or government officials—it is the 30 million Colombians who are fed up with barbarism and who wish to live in a democracy where peace reigns.

The Colombian people have much to gain with democracy and much to lose with violence. The agrarian reform that provides land for the peasants who have no land is being worked on. The urban reform plan is being studied. This plan guarantees that the poor people will not be condemned to live in shantytowns. Constitutional amendments are being studied. The government is providing the downtrodden and forgotten with light, telephones, water, and roads. The terrorists are destroying 10 years of joint work. They are destroying things that the Colombian people have worked for.

Colombia's options are very clear: progress with social justice or destruction; a peaceful solution for disagreements or violent subversion; a state of law or an empire of terror.

Our peace initiative is proof of the government's willingness to talk. However, we must not confuse generosity with weakness. We are generous because we have democracy and the support of an overwhelming majority of the people. The murderers, terrorists, and criminals will never be generous.

I am going to briefly explain some of the measures the government has decided to take against these criminals. Let us begin with those directed against the perpetrators

of massacres of officials and leaders. Article 28 of the Constitution provides for, after prior consultation with the Council of State, the quick apprehension and detention, by order of the government and upon determination by the Council of Ministers, of all persons who are seriously suspected of endangering peace. This will be used against persons suspected of participating in massacres and against perpetrators of attacks on officials and leaders.

Such atrocious crimes deserve severe punishment. The death penalty is prohibited by the Constitution, but life imprisonment is not. A state of siege decree will establish life imprisonment for all perpetrators of massacres and homicides committed in terrorist attacks on officials and leaders. These criminals will spend the rest of their lives in jail. The government will soon submit a bill to Congress to make this measure permanent.

At a meeting I held recently with the military high command, it was decided to implement an emergency plan to increase the fighting strength [pie de fuerza] of the military and police forces. Special highly professional groups will be created, under generals of proven experience, to fight against subversion and terrorism, whatever its motivation. Further, the government will further increase its efforts to provide the military and police forces with everything they need to accomplish their tasks and maintain public order.

River, land, and air transportation equipment will be acquired to deploy troops and to modernize the military communications systems. We will also improve the general condition of the Armed Forces. In addition, measures will be adopted to decrease to a minimum the red tape to purchase this equipment.

In the areas of greatest subversive action, we will strengthen the authority of the Armed Forces. In these special areas we will also strengthen institutions and rehabilitation programs.

To facilitate justice, we are preparing certain measures. For example, among participants of massacres or terrorist attacks, the first person who provides the authorities with useful information that will lead to the capture or punishment of the responsible persons will be freed, either by dropping charges or granting a judicial pardon. By using already existing decrees, his identity will be protected or changed. In addition, he will receive appropriate monetary compensation.

Judges whose lives may be at high risk may request that their identity be kept secret. This will be done without ignoring the right of defense of those involved. The judges charged with hearing cases involving massacres or attacks, and who, in spite of the protective measures and support of the Armed Forces, are convinced that threats prevent them from effectively carrying out their job, will have the option of requesting to be transferred off the case.

Finally, since we have seen that murderers have the power to intimidate honest citizens who make their contribution to justice and thereby avoid being severely punished, we will dispense with the jury [jurado de conciencia] in the case of monstrous crimes.

This way we have dealt with the president of the Supreme Court's worry that fear may put an end to justice.

Fellow citizens, no one would dare think that some minority groups cannot be vanquished by the whole Colombian community united against them. The weapons of justice will defeat them with the help of all Colombians who want peace. We all have a responsibility to fulfill to achieve this. The aspirations of Colombians are justice and progress. We have achieved much and we are prepared to achieve more.

Let the struggle to consolidate the greatness of Colombia not be diminished by selfishness. Today, as we have done in the face of other challenges, we move forward, overcoming pain, leaving pessimism behind to advance with determination and firmness in the construction of a friendly, reconciled, just, and united Colombia in the search and realizations of its best goals.

Good night. See you soon.

Politicians React

PA2711195688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Report by Pilar Lozano—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] The government measures announced by President Virgilio Barco last night have sparked various reactions. Although most people are in favor of this step, former Supreme Court President Juan Hernandez said the establishment of life imprisonment by decree is unconstitutional.

[Hernandez] "The establishment of life imprisonment by a state of siege legislative decree goes against the provisions of the Constitution." [passage omitted]

The Liberal Party has announced it will issue a communique Monday stating its opinion on these measures. Nevertheless, Liberal Party leader Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala said, "We have to carefully study the measures, because there is a wave of terrorism that threatens to bring further strife to the country. On the one hand, it is demanded that the government take vigorous steps, while on the other hand, the government is criticized for taking such steps."

Another Liberal leader, Luis Carlos Galan, expressed support for the government's measures.

[Galan] "Democracy cannot be weak. It must calmly use its means of defense, but these must be adequate. The government's proposed steps are indeed adequate."

Social Conservative Party Senator Hugo Escobar Sierra also voiced support for the antiterrorist measures.

[Escobar Sierra] "They respond to the nationwide call for drastic, strong measures to fight crime, especially these barbarian, brutal, and savage massacres, slaughters, and genocides that portray us to the world as an uncivilized country without principles."

UP [Patriotic Union] Senator Alberto Rojas Puyo said he is opposed to the measures, adding that they are repressive and that this is part of a policy that has already failed.

19 FARC Rebels, 1 Soldier Killed in Meta
PA2711041088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Nineteen FARC guerrillas and soldier Luiz Fernandez Titia of the 7th Brigade were killed this morning during an operation coordinated by the Army's 4th Division in La Julia, Mesetas municipality, Meta Department.

According to General Rafael Padilla, commander of the 4th Brigade, counterinsurgency troops raided a FARC camp, killed the rebels, destroyed a landing strip, and seized weapons.

Government Releases Figures on Guerrilla Violence
PA2511190288 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Nov 88 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Excerpts] Official state security agency statistics have revealed that a total of 2,117 peasants have been killed since 1 January. [passage omitted]

During the same period, 544 soldiers have been killed in violent clashes with guerrillas from the M-19, the FARC, the so-called People's Liberation Army (EPL), the National Liberation Army's (ELN) Camilist Union, and other unidentified armed groups. [passage omitted]

Within the ranks of the National Police, 254 officers, noncommissioned officers, and policemen have been killed in the line of duty. [passage omitted]

The statistics specify that, between 1 January and 19 November 1988, 80 of the peasants were murdered by the ELN, 102 by the EPL, 25 by the leftist M-19, 254 by the FARC, 9 by drug-trafficking rings, and 1,647 by unidentified armed groups. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Armed Forces members who were killed in action, the statistics specify that the ELN killed 91 soldiers in ambushes, dynamite attacks, and raids. In addition, 58 soldiers were killed by the EPL, 17 by the M-19, 180 by the FARC, 3 by drug-trafficking rings, and 195 by subversive groups. Thus, a total of 544 Armed Forces members have been killed so far this year.

Statistics for subversive movements indicate that a total of 706 members of armed groups were killed in clashes with the Armed Forces and the National Police. According to the figures, 98 ELN guerrillas, 142 EPL members, 80 M-19 rebels, 248 FARC guerrillas, 6 members of drug-trafficking rings, and 132 members of unidentitied subversive movements were killed in clashes with forces preserving public order.

In addition, the official statistics indicate that this year there have been 20 attacks on military headquarters. This includes seven ELN attacks, three EPL attacks, one M-19 attack, and nine FARC attacks. There have also been 31 ambushes. 11 by the ELN, 1 by the EPL, 18 by the FARC, and 1 by unidentified guerrilla groups.

Further statistics indicate that a total of 996 rebels were wounded in clashes between the Armed Forces and the guerrillas. This figure includes 147 ELN members, 89 EPL members, 33 M-19 members, 294 FARC members, and 9 members of drug-trafficking rings.

Senate Votes, Approves Constitutional Amendment
PA2511231188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Report by Alvaro Ayala]

[Text] The Senate's full session began at 1000. The lawmakers discussed the divine and human aspects of the reforms all day and into the night. As Senate President Ancizar Lopez started the voting at 2211, Hernado Duran Dussan, who presented the amendment, could not hide his nervousness. A joke by colleague Alberto Santofimio Botero drew a faint smile from him.

As a watchful guardian, Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo reviewed every article. The senators were kept informed, and at midnight, 81 of the chamber's 114 senators were present, making a quorum.

The pounding of the gavel was the highlight of the session. Of the reform's 88 articles, 24 were voted on individually, and the others were voted on as a block. Among the individually voted articles were Article 16, to change the comptroller's office into an accounting body; an article equivalent to Article 120 of the Constitution on parity in public jobs; and Article 121 on the state of siege and disruption of public order.

Voting ended at 2311. The government minister was very happy and there were embraces all round as the full session of Congress approved the 88 articles of bill No. 11 of 1988. The bill approved in the first session of the Congress did not undergo a single change. On Tuesday, the House of Representatives will debate the constitutional amendment.

Correction to Responsibility Claimed for Attack

The following correction pertains to the item appearing under subhead "Responsibility Claimed," published in the 25 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 23, column one, paragraph one, first sentence: The FARC General Staff denies responsibility for the...(clearing queried word and supplying indistinct word)

Ecuador

Borja To Promote Agrarian Reform, Railroads

PA2511190888 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Nov 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Text] President Rodrigo Borja has announced his determination to promote agrarian reform in Ecuador and to seek financing to rehabilitate the railroads, which he described as Ecuador's biggest task. He said we must not allow the railroads to languish out of neglect.

The president made these statements at town council meetings in Latacunga and Riobamba, which commemorated the anniversary of their political independence.

The chief of state said that neglected elements of the agrarian reform will be rescued on the basis of self-criticism, because "we do not want an agrarian reforms which will cause the collapse of agriculture or a setback for the agrarian reform program itself." He announced that, in addition to distributing land to the peasants, credits and technical assistance will be given to them so they will produce as much as possible from their plots, not only to improve the standard of living of their families but primarily to benefit a country that is growing explosively and demands foodstuffs in ever increasing quantities.

He stressed that as president of the Republic he is duty-bound to give equal attention to the country's 20 provinces, to promote a balanced development of the country, and to distribute the nation's wealth equitably.

Nobody chooses the best time to govern, the president said in one of his speeches as he expounded on the problems he has had to tackle since he assumed power. I have had to confront the most acute, serious, and dangerous economic and social crisis in Ecuador's history. Long-suppressed aspirations are being expressed today, he added.

Borja said that despite the ridicule to which he has been subjected, the high cost of living is still causing him to lose sleep at night. He stressed, however, that the measures that were implemented on 20 August are bearing fruit. He said he is certain the economy will rebound, and he is, therefore, confident that he will have the required financial resources to attend to the needs of the provinces for the remainder of his term.

Borja noted that the oil boom exposed the greed of irresponsible people and that an oil-based economy is a serious flaw in the country's economic structure.

Let us not pin too many hopes on oil. We will continue to explore for it and to exploit it, but let us be conscious of the fact that this is an exhaustible resource, we will run out of it any day, and Ecuador's only permanent, noble, and generous wealth is its agricultural wealth, he added.

President Borja gave thanks for the welcome received at the railroad station in Riobamba and promised to make efforts to rehabilitate this mass transportation system.

He announced that he has asked the public works minister "to find a formula to move forward with the railroads and to give the Ecuadoran people a comfortable and inexpensive mass transportation system."

In referring again to the country's economic crisis, Borja said he receives countless visits from municipalities, schools, universities, and other institutions seeking solutions to their financial problems and when the government adopts economic measures to meet not only their requests but many other needs, "Then they are the first to criticize the economic measures."

"Why do they not tell the people the truth? Why do they not tell the truth to the provinces, to the cantons, to the peasants? Why do they not state how to solve the problem of providing drinking water, electricity, and feeder roads if the government lacks the financing required to carry out these works?" he asked.

Borja thanked the Ecuadoran people because, he said, they have understood that he had no other choice but to adopt these measures, and realize that they will eventually yield positive results. He said that this positive outlook is justified by the 2-point drop in the inflation rate and the $100-million increase in monetary reserves.

Nicaraguan Ambassador's Credentials Received

PA2711132788 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Summary] Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja Cevallos this morning received the credentials of Nicaraguan Ambassador Carlos Sequeira Molina during a special ceremony at the Presidency. Diplomatic relations between Ecuador and Nicaragua, which were unilaterally severed by former President Leon Febres- Cordero in October 1985, were thereby reestablished.

Minister Denies Talks With Guerrillas

PA2811001388 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Government Minister Andres Vallejo yesterday again denied the claim of Commanders Joaquin and Javier of the Alfaro Lives Dammit subversive group that they have met with him. The rebel leaders maintain they

have met on five occasions with the government within a framework of consultations and coordination proposed by President Rodrigo Borja. According to them, one of the meetings involved Minister Vallejo himself, who reportedly introduced them to a delegate of President Borja for further talks.

Nevertheless, Vallejo did not rule out the possibility of holding talks with the guerrillas to achieve peace in the country. Febres-Cordero's administration refused to hold talks with the Alfaro Lives Dammit and Free Homeland Montoneras guerrilla groups because it considered them to be terrorist groups; it actually attacked these groups to the point of almost eliminating them.

Vallejo pointed out that holding talks with the guerrillas would be a positive step. He recalled that the Colombian administration of Belisario Betancur began a dialogue with genuine revolutionary armies to achieve peace in that country. He asked: Why can we not hold talks here, where the guerrillas are still at an embryonic phase?

The possibility of government-guerrillas talks has been viewed differently. National Congress President Wilfrido Lucero said on 25 November that the Congress is neither tasked nor empowered to hold talks with the guerrillas. Lucero refused to comment on the alleged talks, saying that he has received no information in this regard. He added: These kinds of problems are under the jurisdiction of others; it is not a concern of the National Congress.

According to Julio Cesar Trujillo, a former president of Popular Democracy, talks with guerrillas would be good for the country because they have useful ideas, some of which could be implemented. He added that not everything advocated by the guerrillas can be carried out because there are obstacles facing the good offices of the current rulers.

Meanwhile, the Social Christian Party of former President Leon Febres- Cordero expressed concern over this possibility. It will meet tomorrow to discuss the topic and issue an statement. Marco Lara, president of that party and public information secretary during the previous administration, refused to comment on this.

While in Quito [as heard], Commanders Joaquin and Javier are proposing a broad and direct dialogue with Rodrigo Borja's regime; in Guayaquil, leaders (Juan Cubia) and (Edgar Prias), both in prison, and Patricio Baquerizo are rejecting a demand that the movement respect the law.

Vice President on Government Economic Plan

PA2611182288 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish
15 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Guayaquil, 14 Nov—According to Vice President Luis Parodi, the reduced inflation rate prevents the U.S. dollar exchange rate from skyrocketing in the free market. He also said that, after 3 months, many of the government's economic measures are open for examination by the Ecuadoran people, particularly those related to the economic reorganization.

Parodi said the government has been supplying the U.S. dollars that importers require. He added: The country is in the process of reinforcing its economy, which was first reorganized and then entered a period of rapid reactivation. I think the government has taken important steps toward this goal.

Parodi asked that the people look at the country's problems from an overall perspective. He added: We hope to firmly reorganize the economy so that everybody benefits.

He continued: All things must move forward one step at a time. Both inflation reduction and economic reactivation are slow processes, but these processes have helped the country progress, though slowly.

Parodi reported that the government has taken several steps to impede the rising cost of staples. He said: Considerable amounts have been earmarked to enhance production capabilities, which is the best way to check inflation. He pointed out: Two things have to be taken into consideration when it comes to prices. The cost of the product must be paid so planting and production can continue. Also, consumers must pay the price so that middlemen can be eliminated without causing costs to rise too much. Ecuador has been experimenting with certain products at CONADE [National Development Council]. We have learned from the past and will eliminate middlemen, who have caused price increases.

Parodi continued: The government cannot discourage production because this would result in shortages, and we cannot allow middlemen to unnecessarily increase prices. The government intends to do this in a way so that production rates are maintained and a sufficient supply is ensured.

Central Bank on Foreign Reserves, Trade Balance

PA2511190588 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish
16 Nov 88 pp A-1, A-13

[Summary] According to the Central Bank's monthly report issued on 15 November, Ecuador's international monetary reserve showed a negative balance of $265 million as of 30 September. In addition, exports reached $1.697 billion between January and September. This figure represents a 25-percent increase compared to the same period last year. This rise in exports is due primarily to larger oil, oil by-products, banana, and fish meal sales. Also, imports between January and September amounted to $1.132 billion, or 28 percent less than in the same period in 1987. The Central Bank also reported that the country's foreign trade operations in the same period resulted in a favorable balance of $565.4 million.

Government To Guarantee Services During Strike

PA2411033288 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish
2300 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The government will take measures to guarantee order and calm for the duration of the strike called by the Sole Workers Front, FUT. Public Administration Secretary Washington Herrera has said the Armed Forces and police will protect institutions and roads to guarantee peace in the country. [Begin Herrera recording] The government respects the FUT leaders' decision to strike, but it reminds them that the people have stated their opposition to the strike, according to a poll carried out by a private company. It showed 78 percent of those consulted are opposed to this useless and unproductive strike.

The government will take measures to guarantee peace tomorrow, and it will ensure transportation services for people and goods. Both military and National Police authorities will be working to achieve this.

The government will take steps to protect the workers' right to work. We have heard private sector employees say they want to work because they know that during a crisis, harmony and work is necessary for progress.

The public sector, as you know, will work as usual tomorrow. We will continue to tackle the crisis as we always do. The government emphasizes that it will not tolerate violence or vandalism and that it will take the necessary steps for people to work normally tomorrow. [end recording]

Strike Said Unsuccessful

PA2511173788 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish
1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The strike called by the Sole Workers' Front was carried out yesterday in absolute peace and tranquillity in Esmeraldas Province. Esmeraldas Province Governor Roque Lopez Olivo evaluated the strike and said it was not productive.

[Begin recording] [Lopez Olivo] Reports from every sector indicate that activities were absolutely normal. Banks operated normally in Quindela Canton, and stores opened for business. Some stores closed their doors as a precaution in Esmeraldas, and we understand this. We also protected the workers who went to work. My advice to the workers, urging them to opt for a dialogue, was heeded because it was advice, not an order. That is the best way to handle this type of thing.

[Reporter] Were there any arrests or unfortunate actions?

[Lopez Olivo] No one was arrested. In fact, some people....[changes thought] I will tell you quite clearly that they were not workers, only anarchists who infiltrated the groups of demonstrators [words indistinct] working classes. These were isolated cases, and are unimportant. We acted cautiously and prevented major problems. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meanwhile, opposition leaders—including Professor Antonio Guerrero, president of the Democratic People's Movement—said the strike was a success.

One Reportedly Killed

PA2511130888 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish
2300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Vicente Vilana Yepes died at noon today from bullet wounds he received during violent clashes in southern Quito. The clashes occurred during the strike called by the Sole Workers Front, FUT.

The young man, who received serious bullet wounds, was immediately taken to the Enrique Garces Hospital, but the emergency room doctors could not save the his life.

According to reports from southern Quito, students and workers fought with policemen who used tear gas as well as firearms. [passage omitted]

Universities, Schools Strike To Demand Aid

PA2311164888 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish
2300 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Universities and polytechnic schools in the entire country went on strike today to demand the government solve the economic problems the schools have been facing for the past few years.

Ecuadoran higher education has greatly suffered because of the policies by recent governments, which have not provided economic assistance to the universities. This has caused classes to be suspended on several occasions. Ecuadoran university officials have said that during the Leon Febres-Cordero administration they were not given the funds they should have received.

The current administration has not changed things either, university students claimed. They pointed out that President Rodrigo Borja promised to give aid to universities, but the promises have not been kept.

National Polytechnic School Rector Ruben Orellana said the strike was successful and another one will be held on 21 December.

Paraguay

1988 Foreign Debt Reportedly Set at $350 Million

PY2411180988 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
24 Nov 88 p 5

[Excerpt] Several rumors have circulated after the return of Foreign Minister Dr Rodney Elpidio Acevedo, who was in Brasilia the past few days to discuss the terms of

the renegotiation of the foreign debt of ACEPAR [Paraguayan Steel, Inc.]. One of these rumors is that a private consulting firm will analyze the process.

This issue is very significant, and the private sector is discussing it. Foreign debt renegotiation has been requested for a long time now so that more resources could be available to finance development.

Reliable sources said yesterday that Paraguay must pay between $340 and $350 million to foreign debtors in 1988; they add that last year the country reportedly declared a moratorium on part of its foreign debt obligations.

The sources regret that the national government is keeping secret the terms of ACEPAR's foreign debt renegotiation with Brazil. The negotiations are not being made public, so this issue of national interest cannot be disccussed. [passage omitted]

Writer Miranda, Union Leaders on Hunger Strikes
PY2311172688 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
23 Nov 88 p 8

[Summary] Writer Anibal Miranda has gone on a hunger strike to demand his release from jail. Miranda is still being detained at the Police Security Guard Department. The Supreme Court has yet to answer the habeas corpus petitions that were submitted in Miranda's favor. The PLRA [Radical Liberal Party] has issued a communique expressing its solidarity with Miranda. The PLRA reports that Union Leader Chavez is also on a hunger strike to demand that the right to join unions be upheld. Chavez is a co-worker of CAPSA [Paraguayan Cotton Company, Inc.] union leaders Pedro Salcedo and Andres Amarilla, who are also being held at the Police Security Guard Department.

Police, Government Delegate Prevent Procession
PY2511235088 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
25 Nov 88 p 12

[Text] Church officials have reported that in addition to the climate of uneasiness still prevailing in Concepcion and its diocese as a result of the 22 November events, a new, very unusual, and distressing event occurred yesterday.

Uniformed armed policemen, headed by government delegate Gregorio Morales and local police chief Jovino Careaga, entered the parish of Loreto during a eucharistic celebration in an action which was labeled "intimidatory." The celebration was held after the police prevented a "procession of silence" in this city, which is near Concepcion.

A few hours before the procession was scheduled to begin, the police were deployed in the town, especially around the parish where Father Otilio Pinanez called on the religious procession "to pray for the return of good sense and harmony in our diocese."

Pinanez also said that the procession was to be "in solidarity with our bishop" because "the people were offended by the insults and injustice committed against Msgr Maricevich."

He added that early in the morning the police were already around the temple where the procession was due to start at 1900.

The celebration inside the parish was attended by many of the faithful in an environment of "uneasiness" because of the armed police presence in the parish.

Marijuana Warehouses Found, Trafficker Wounded
PY2511220888 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
25 Nov 88 p 57

[Summary] Policemen of the town of Capitan Bado have found two large warehouses hidden in the woods in the Ysoso colony, some 45 km from Capitan Bado. A total of 111 packages of pressed marijuana each weighing 10 kg, 5 19kg bags of marijuana buds, and some 40 kg of marijuana seed were found inside the warehouses. Another operation in the same colony yielded 70 packages weighing 10 kg each of pressed marijuana. During the operation Paraguayan drug trafficker Juan Suarez Lopez sustained a bullet wound in his leg and was taken for medical assistance to the Pedro Juan Caballero regional hospital.

Peru

Garcia on Antidrug Actions With Colombia
PY2611211288 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] In Lima today, President Alan Garcia met with Peruvian and Colombian officials to coordinate the fight against drug trafficking.

During the meeting, held at the ministerial level, the head of state described drug trafficking as a worldwide threat and said it is necessary to combine efforts to eradicate this scourge.

Garcia also said that Peru is using about $100 million in antinarcotics operations.

[Being Garcia recording] Both Colombia and Peru are trying to eradicate drug trafficking, which weakens and corrupts our societies. Drug trafficking also aids and finances subversion and terrorism, as is happening throughout the Huallaga region.

The alliance between drug traffickers and subversives is the paramount threat to Peruvian democracy. Because our problems are similar to those of Colombia's and other countries, we have begun joint discussions on the problem.

Nevertheless, we understand that this problem of police actions, coordination, and creating a bi-national police command against drug trafficking does not only involve Colombia and Peru; it is in fact an international problem. All major countries are responsible and must be involved because they create demand. These countries do not, however, assume their responsibility through repressive or economic efforts.

I hope that Mr Bush's administration will take basic and effective steps in coordination with our nations in order to overcome this extremely serious problem. This issue also affects the United States because there is a huge drug market there.

I am convinced that this meeting, in which the Peruvian and Colombian justice ministers, the Peruvian interior minister, and both countries' police chiefs are participating, will allow us to conduct joint operations, such as the Condor Operation. This meeting will also allow our countries to establish an international data center for drug trafficking activities and to reconcile legislative, court, and police records. This will enable us to receive immediate access to information to identify people. In the future, we can even think of establishing much more effective and sophisticated means of battling drugs: for example, an array of radars or interceptors to patrol the airspace along our border. Dozens, even hundreds, of small planes pass through this area carrying drugs, money, and weapons.

In order to complete this task, however, we need the participation of other countries that are concerned about the ravage and distruction drugs cause in their youth and citizens. This crime has no borders; it is neither Peruvian nor Colombian. This crime has no borders because it affects the entire human race. Moreover, in both Peru and Colombia, these criminals could end up cooperating with subversives. That would entail a huge threat to democracy.

As president, I am more concerned about Peru's future, not its present, because the alliance between drug traffickers and subversives is just beginning to take place in the jungle area and in northeastern Peru.

I am concerned that with the financing from drug trafficking, our country's most powerful and prosperous enterprise, subversives will be able to make great strides in their war actions. This, indeed, is a serious threat to our country.

We must, therefore, understand that there are shared responsibilities in this effort. Every day the problem becomes more serious. The impact on our society is dramatic. Drug trafficking activities immobilize a large portion of intis or soles because they nourish black market activities in Ocona [blac market operations location].

It costs Peru millions and millions of dollars to maintain our police forces, to patrol airports, and to investigate drug trafficking rings. Peru spends about $100 million in this effort [no time frame given]. I think the United States has contributed about $5 million in assistance.

Two issues are worrisome: first, the alliance between drug traffickers and subversives; second, the fact that trafficking activities upset the national economy.

If you bring in some $500-$800 million a year into the black market, anyone who goes to Ocona will buy dollars from drug trafficking activities and will paralyze money that could be used for investments.

It is not true that drug trafficking brings dollars to Peru; that is a lie. Trafficking, in fact, removes investment possibilities because it paralyzes part of the economy because people prefer to buy dollars sold on the black market.

We must face this problem. I think that in our talks with President Barco we have made solid progress on this issue. [end recording]

Carlos Rivas Davila Appointed Finance Minister

PY2811105588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Peruvian President Alan Garcia has accepted the resignation of Economy and Finance Minister Abel Salinas. Garcia immediately appointed Deputy Carlos Rivas Davila as Salinas' replacement.

According to a local television station, Abel Salinas had submitted his irrevocable resignation because the economic reactivation program he had drafted with his main advisors had not been accepted.

Garcia had forced Salinas to implement another economic program believed to be against the goals he sought.

Appointment Confirmed

PY2811113488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1111 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Last night, Deputy Carlos Rivas Davila was appointed new economy minister after the government had accepted the resignation of Economy Minister Abel Salinas.

The government adopted this decision during a meeting held by President Alan Garcia and the APRA political commission. The information was disclosed about 2200 while this meeting, which was headed by Premier Armando Villanueva, was still going on at Government House.

Carlos Rivas Davila, chairman of the Chamber of Budget Committee, succeeds Abel Salinas as economy minister after the government accepted the latter's resignation through a decree.

The newly-appointed economy and finance minister will take the oath of office at 1600.

Born in Chiclayo, Rivas Davila is the chairman of the Peruvian Economists Association. He is 42 years old, is married to Yolanda Toribio de Rivas, and has three small children.

Rivas Davila will attend the Senate tomorrow mornin in his capacity as member of the cabinet which is headed by Armando Villanueva del Campo.

Education Minister To Speak at Cuban Conference
PY2611025788 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Education Minister Mercedes Cabanillas left for Cuba this morning on the Cubana de Aviacion airline to participate in the first Ibero-American Education Conference to be held in La Havana. At the conference of education ministers, to which she was invited by the Ibero-American States Organization for Education, Science, and Culture, Minister Cabanillas will deliver a lecture on Education, Work, and Employment: Alternatives for the 1990's.

Minister Cabanillas traveled to Havana with Elementary and High School Education Director General Victor Raul Diaz Chavez and National Investigation and Education Development Institute Daniel Bautista.

Shining Path Attacks Police Station, 5 Killed
PY2611013488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2212 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 25 Nov (EFE)—It was reported today that a Shining Path command attacked a police station with firearms, explosives, and grenades, killing five policemen.

The attack occurred on 24 November, when subversives attacked the police station from two points. They threw a hand grenade inside the police building to initiate the attack.

An unknown number of policemen were wounded during the attack. They were taken to the city's Police Hospital.

Although there is no official information of the attack, witnesses—one of whom was arrested in a police operation—confirmed that five policemen died.

Ayacucho has been paralyzed by a 1-week strike, called by Shining Path. The strike will end on 27 November. The population lives in anguish, fearing activities by the Shining Path and the Rodrigo Franco Commando, an anti- Shining Path group that has threatened to kill all those it believes are cooperating with the guerrillas.

In Huanta, a town in Ayacucho Department, alleged Shining Path members murdered correspondent Hugo Bustios, of the Lima weekly CARETAS, and seriously wounded Eduardo Rojas, a correspondent of the daily ACTUALIDAD.

These actions are part of a Shining Path offensive that so far this month have caused 219 [as received] deaths.

Since the Shining Path began its subversive actions in May 1980, 12,000 people have been killed and material losses are estimated at $10 billion, a figure higher than Peru's exports in the last 3 years.

Journalist, Mayor Killed
PY2511143688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0426 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Ayacucho (Peru), 24 Nov (EFE)—It was reported in Ayacucho today that a correspondent of a Lima magazine and a town's mayor were killed, presumably by "Shining Path" terrorists, in two different locations in Ayacucho Department.

According to military sources in Ayacucho, Hugo Bustios, a correspondent for the weekly CARETAS, was killed today in the town of Huanta, when he and a colleague were attacked by a group with submachineguns and explosives. Bustios' colleague Eduardo Rojas, was seriously wounded.

The attack occurred in the outskirts of Huanta, 2 km from the downtown area. According to the sources, the journalists apprently went to this place to gather information on violent acts.

Press sources have reported that Bustios had received death threats from the Shining Path.

In a separate incident the mayor of Acosvinchos, Victor Velarde, was killed on Wednesday night in Acosvinchos, according to police reports.

Velarde, a member of the ruling APRA Party, was forced out of his house by a Shining Path group, who subsequently killed him in the town's main square by shooting him three times in the head.

Interior Minister on Terrorist Activities, Curfew
PY2711220288 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Soria Diaz has said that the journalists who were threatened by terrorists are under police protection. Soria also reiterated that for the time being there is no need to declare a state of emergency in Lima.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] One journalist was killed and another wounded in Ayacucho. Has the Interior Ministry identified those responsible for this attack?

[Soria] Well, we have learned about this attack, which we deeply regret. The military-political commander is investigating this case. Don't forget that Ayacucho Department has been declared an emergency area, especially Huanta Province, which is regarded as the most strife-ridden area of Ayacucho Department.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, what is the status of the investigation into the threats that journalists have received from members of the Rodrigo Franco Commando Group?

[Soria] Terrorists have sent some leaflets to political figures, journalists, and television entertainers. We are investigating. We still have nothing definite. We know that these leaflets were written by the same person. The same typewriter was used to address the five envelopes. The investigation, which is moving forward slowly but surely, will hopefully discover those responsible for these leaflets.

[Reporter] Then, the necessary protection is being provided to the journalists who were threatened by terrorists?

[Soria] They have been under protection from the very beginning. The (?homes) of Senator Silva Ruete, Mr (Gildebrand), and Miss (Geseo) are well protected. The other two people have not requested protection. As you know, protection is provided only on request.

[Reporter] Is there any possibility that a curfew will be declared in Lima and Callao once again?

[Soria] I think that for the time being there is no need to declare a curfew. In case of emergency, the Armed Forces Joint Command can declare a curfew. For the time being, I think it is not necessary. If the situation becomes worse, then a curfew could be declared.

[Reporter] Could this happen in the coming days?

[Soria] I repeat that for the time being a curfew is not necessary. [end recording]

Prime Minister Blames Strike on 'Subversives'
PY2611135288 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Armando Villanueva by unidentified reporters; time and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Villanueva] We lost $300 million because of the miners' strike. This strike has nothing to do with what the miners want because it is being sponsored by groups of subversives who are threatening workers to prevent them from discharging their (?duties). [Question] [Words indistinct] [Villanueva] As you know, two labor leaders have been killed. The Toquepala and Cuajones mines were seized by groups of subversives and at least until yesterday remained in their hands. I hope this situation has been already resolved.

[Question] The Army has reportedly intervened in Marcona...

[Villanueva, interrupting] Look, if civilian paramilitary members of the Shining Path, of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, or of any other group seize property or a factory, then it is the duty of the state to guarantee the constitutional rights of all Peruvians. [passage omitted]

APRA Senator: Country on 'Brink' of Civil War
PY2711011188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1847 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 26 Nov (EFE)—According to ruling APRA Senator Javier Valle Riestra, the country is on the brink of a civil war and a coup d'etat is a real possibility before the 1990 general elections.

The senator sent a letter, published by the Lima paper LA REPUBLICA, to the youth movements of the southern Tacna and Moquegua Departments. In the letter he says that the present situation of hunger and violence has pushed the population to a pre-revolutionary stage.

In the letter, Senator Valle criticizes President Alan Garcia's "egocentrical and arrogant stands" but adds that he "has to be protected from right-wing conspiracies and pressures, coming from inside and outside of the party, because he represents the progressive wing of the party."

Senator Valle says that if a civil war breaks out, it will end with "either one of two forms of hard-to-end dictatorships: a military dictatorship or a revolutionary, Communist dictatorship. The APRA should prevent this form occurring by introducing popular reforms to the Constitution," he added.

In the manifesto, Valle says that there is a latent discontent within the middle class, and among political and business leaders, "who have lost faith in themselves." Valle adds that the situation is similar to the periods "preceding the French, Russian, and Cuban revolutions."

The senator also criticized the nationalization of the Peruvian financial system, planned in October 1987 but not yet implemented, because it paved the way for the regrouping and the plotting of the right-wing sectors.

According to the senator, the nationalization of the financial system "was done without consultations, was hastily prepared, and was not necessary."

Valle also attacked the old party leadership. He said they are "the old party prophets" who are conspiring with the powerful.

The senator said both writer Mario Vargas Llosa, leader of the Democratic Front, a coalition of center, right and independent parties; and Alfonso Barrantes, former president of the United Left and former Lima mayor, are "renegades from the left."

Correction to Economy Minister Address

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Economy Minister Announces New Measures," published in the 23 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 35, column one, last paragraph, sentence one, ...we established a higher exchange rate which,... (changing word "overvalued" to "higher") and same page, column two, paragraph eight, only sentence: Right now the foreign exchange gap has been closed, but the deficit caused by...(rewording)